BIBLE MASONRY

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THE MASONRY OF THE BIBLE,

A HISTORIC, BIOGRAPHIC, AND CRITICAL TREATISE ON, AND EXPOSITION OF, THE PRINCIPLES OF ANCIENT CRAFT MASONRY, AS THEY APPEAR IN THE LITERAL READING OF

THE GREAT LIGHT OF MASONRY,

WHICH IS

THE HOLY BIBLE.

BY

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WARSAW, KENTUCKY.

WITH A PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

BY

"COMPANION" ROBERT R. RUSSELL,

WARSAW, KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
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AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

There is a *Reason* for everything that is in an actual existence in the natural world, and it is a universally acknowledged truism, that "in the great economy of Nature, there is *nothing lost*." The Rains descend from the regions of cloudland, and refresh the earth in gentle showers of summer temperature or Beat fiercely upon the bosom of the ocean in the blinding storms of midwinter on the broad Atlantic, and surging in gigantic billows toward the "Cliffs of Albion," be apparently lost and engulfed in the Maelstrom, never to rise again. Still every drop of rain, whether the welcome visitor of the torrid summer Cloud Burst, or the gentle shower of Springtime that lifts the head of the blue violet, and kisses the sweet petals of the rare forget-me-not! or yet the Winter Storm, in all the grand elemental power of Nature set at war. Yet it is not lost, but changed by its conditional environments it again is elevated to its birthplace in the Clouds only to repeat the grand transformation scene until time shall be no more. When every drop of water in the clouds of the visible firmament above, and every pearly drop of the seas of this lower Earth, weighed and an account given, by the accurate forces of natural laws which have been issued from the Creative Spirit which rules supremely over all things in Heaven and in Earth. There is a Reason for *Religion*, which is the name given by man, to the

earnest desire within the soul to lead a higher life. And in the pages of this volume there will be found a brief description of the early attempts of the human race to find *the True God*, and of their gradual progress, from the *lowest level* which we are able to conceive of, to an ever-increasing area of religious and social *light*, from the rude *Altars of Stone*, in the wilds of Nature to the *Altar of Gold* in the *Temple of Solomon*, in the *City of Jerusalem.*

And the *Reason*, which thus developed man *from the lowest* to a higher *grade* of life and education is found to be fully explained in *the light* which came upon the people of *Israel when the Law of the Ten Commandments was given to Moses from the hand of God*, and the subsequent *progress* of the *Hebrew* Nation, remarkable in its realistic sense of a race *enslaved, liberated* by a miracle, and *guided* by *divine* providence through a wilderness journey of many years, to the proud and lofty position of *a Nation of power*, whose *God* was the Allwise *Creator*, whose *King was appointed by that God*, and *whose Temple of Worship* and *Ceremonial* thereof, *was designed by the same God*, and *by His supreme directions* the entire fabric of *Jewish Religion* was *Created* and *governed by the Reasoning Mind* of *The Spirit* that created *all* things known to natural sense. There was certainly *a Reason* for all these *events* which have been faithfully *chronicled* in the annals of the Past, and as faithfully *preserved* up to the present Age. There was *a Reason* for the *Angels* appearing to *Abram*, and telling him of the future *of his family.* There was *a Reason* for *Jacob*, who was renamed *Israel*, (as Abram was renamed Abraham, "the friend of God,") to pronounce upon his death-

bed the *special* benedictive prophecy upon *Judah*, *The Lion*, for *The Lion Tribe* was to *lead* the people of God, and *Judah* was to be *the family from whence the Law Giver* should spring. *Shiloh*, "*the Prince of Peace*," was to be *born* of *The House of David* of *the Tribe of Judah*, and was to *prevail* over *all the enemies* of The Kingdom and people of God. And it was *because* of this Reason that *the Tabernacle* was built in the Wilderness, that *the Ark* was placed *within* it, that *the Ark was preserved by Divine power*, that *the Temple* was Built, and *the Ark* placed therein, that *the Ceremonial* was instituted by *Solomon* by the *Special* command of *God*, which was blessed upon its *first* observance with the *presence* of *Deity*, in response *to* the *Obedience* of the people and the dedicatory *prayer* of the wise *King of Israel*. There was also *a Reason* for its *Destruction*, which had been already *foretold* by the *prophets* of God in the event of the *disobedience* of the people, or of their *neglect* to follow *His Law* as it had been faithfully *copied by Moses* in the hidden *Book of the Law of God*, *the Captivity* was also in *accordance* with *Reason*, for *God had promised* that the people *should be captured* by their *enemies*, *because* of their sin and their *voluntary insult* to *the God of Israel* by their shameless *idolatry* of the heathen *deities*. *The Restoration* of the *Temple* was *also* reasonable, for *God had promised* that after a period of *Captivity* in a foreign land, that the people *should return to Jerusalem*, and *should rebuild* "*the waste places*," and *again institute the Worship of the True God* in the *Restored Temple*, and the attempt of *Nehemiah* and of *Zerrubbabel* signalized by a *devotion* that has never been equaled in the history of *Religion*. There was *a Reason* in the

long *Silence* of God during the time which elapsed from the *Restoration* of the *Temple* until the *Death of Judas Maccabeus*, which practically *finished* the *History of Judah* as a people, and at *this* time the entrance of *Roman power* into *Judea*, still further confirms in *a Historic Light* the narrative of *The Bible*, and in the appearance of *The Herodian Temple* and the petty reign of that tyrannical provincial ruler, Herod. There was *a Reason!* for as *Cæsar Augustus* sent out his famous edict of *Taxation of the World* and gathered *Judea* within his provincial range, So it was that *Bethlehem Judah* came within his *province*, and *Joseph and Mary* were *obliged* to leave their *Galilean* Home and travel to *Bethlehem* during the *exact* and *critical period* when *the Messiah of Judah should be born*, and the *prophecy* of ancient time was *thus fully* and *graphically fulfilled* in the *Advent of Jesus in Bethlehem*, and *the Sign of the Eastern Star*. There was *a Reason* in the *visit* of the *Wise Men from the East*, and of the simple *Shepherds of Judea*, *because* the *Wisdom* and *Strength* of the *learned* was *linked* with the *Beauty* of the *simple* minds and *humble worship* of the *poor*. There was *a Reason* in the *coming of John the Baptist* "*sent from God*," the *forerunner* of *The Deliverer of Judah* and the acquiescence of *Christ* in *the Baptismal Rite* was *a proof* of the *reasonableness* of the *Scripture prophecies* of the past, and *There was a Reason in the Crucifixion of The Christ*, for *it* was the *final Sacrifice* of which all the *others* had been but *types* and in *the Resurrection of Christ* there was *a Reason* showing *Man* in *a Spiritual Light* and *promise of a* glorious *future*, and there was *also a Reason* in the *preservation* of *The Records of All this History of God's dealings with His People*, as there was in the *pre-*

servation of *The Ark* and *The Book of The Law*, and as the *Levites guarded* the sacred *Book* in the days of *Joshua* and the *Judges*, as *Ezra copied* and *kept sacred the Book of the Law* in the days of the *Captivity*, and as *Judas Maccabeus fought* for the *preservation of the Temple* and *the Book* until a soldier's death *liberated the soul* of the great "*Hammerer*" *of Judah*, so *there is an Order of Men* who have *come of their own free will*, *Men* who have *pledged devotion to God and The Bible* from the days of *Solomon* and *Hiram* until the present time, *Men* who *have Kept The Great Light blazing upon their Altars*, *Men* of iron *will* power, who in the *early* days *cut out* the way for the *free passage* of *The Bible of God* with *Keen Swords*, *Men* who *fought* for *the City of Jerusalem*, *Men* who *handed the traditions down* by *word of mouth* and *mystic sign*, *Men* who *met* and *consulted The Open Bible*, when every church on earth save one, had *lost* its *great light* of *The Holy Bible*, *Men*, who like *Samuel*, the temple *child*, *saw* the *waning light of Christianity* and *The Holy Bible*, and flew to its instantaneous *relief!* and *this Order of Ancient Masonry!* like the *Operative Craft* of *olden Temple Times*, is *Systematic* and *Practical* in *all* its *business* and *laws* of *government*. *Masonry* has ever *defended the Holy Bible* from the invidious or open attacks of its *enemies*, and will *never* suffer the *infidelity* of a Cavilling World to in *any manner* reflect a shadow upon *its pages* that are *radiant with Truth*, as it is revealed from *the great* "*Law Giver*," and thus *The Holy Bible* is especially *reverenced* by *the true Mason because* of *its inestimable valuation* as *The Book of Masonic History*, *The Principles of Masonry* as set forth by *The Grand Master*, *and copied* by *the First Grand Secretary*, *Moses*, are *the Eter-*

nal Principles of *Friendship*, *Morality*, and *Brotherly Love*, and when *these principles* are *practiced* in a faithful *adherence* to *the Law* of *The Holy Bible*, *The Mason* is "*Not far from the Kingdom*," for *a Mason will love The Holy Bible*, and *will* "*Search the Scriptures*," and *a Masonic Searcher for more light* will *always find it in The Holy Bible*. And in conclusion I *repeat* the assertion, that *this Book* will be *criticised* perhaps unfavorably, ("and in respect to its scholarly composition, deservedly so,") but as to the *living Facts* gleaned from the great harvest field of the elysian dominions of *religious*, *political*, *national*, *mediæval*, *ancient*, or *primeval History*, *It is true!* and *beyond all criticism*, favorable or otherwise, *The Bible is the Law of The Living God*, *and Masonry is the Ancient Order founded by God* and *given to Moses for the preservation of That Law of God*, and *The Masonic Lodge*, if it be worthy of the name, whether in the superb *Temple* of the great *Metropolis*, or the rude *Khan* of the *Soudanese Desert*, is *an Organized Body of Men who Believe in the Holy Bible*, who are *taught by its light* to walk the earth as *Kings of the East! Bowing Only* at the *name* of *Deity*, and *before the Altar of the Holy Bible*, *The Great Light of Masonry*. And with this preface I leave the reader, and may *your pathway* ever be *lighted* by *The Masonry of The Bible*, is the earnest wish of your Masonic friend.

Edward H. Hand

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION, BY ROBERT R. RUSSELL.

This volume of Masonic History is the result of a careful and exhaustive study of the Ancient Scripture in the search of more light in Masonry by one who is known to be an earnest, zealous Royal Arch Mason, and also as an humble follower of the Christ in the practice of the grand principles of a Christian Mason. As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he is well known in this part of Kentucky, and is in every way qualified for the magnificent undertaking of a presentation of the Bible Facts! contained in the description of "The Masonry of the Bible."

And furthermore I take great pleasure in saying that the Masonic Author is a special friend of myself—that we have sat in Lodge together, and have shared in the Mystic Rites of the Sublime Degree at the Raising of a Master Mason, and by this fact, and many private interviews, I know him to be a Mason of the Royal Arch Degree, a companion of Napoleon Chapter No. 51, of Napoleon, Gallatin County, Ky., and I also know him as a Christian Mason, from the fact that he is the beloved pastor of the Warsaw Baptist Church, of which I have the honor to be a member, and for these reasons I would earnestly recommend "The Masonry of the Bible" to every one that

is interested in the actual facts of historic Masonry as it is recorded in the Great Light, which is the Holy Bible, the word of God, and I consider it a valuable addition to the Records of the Order.

R. R. Russell

WARSAW, KY., January 28, 1898.

CHAPTER I.

THE LIGHT OF THE EAST.

A veil of mystery and silence envelops the frigid region of the North. The North! with its snow-clad wastes, relieved by mountain peaks whose icy crowns reflect the glittering colors of arctic sunlight upon a scene of Nature in the burial robe of atmospheric death.

The frozen sea, whose borderland is strewn with wreckage of daring spirits, within whose breasts there lived a hope of wresting nature's secret from its ice-bound casket, that land of mystery, whose Southern bound is a farewell to civilization, whose Eastern circle embraces the far Northern meridian of the entire Globe, whose Northern boundary is limited by the perfect balance of the Axis Poles of Earth.

This dark and unknown land, whose Midnight Sun arises amid crystal battlements, surmounting which the Day God lifts the glittering standard of the Aurora Borealis. This is the land within whose dark recesses there lives a germ of Vital Force—a Force! which with unerring precision points the needle of the mariner's compass toward the realm of Arctic snow—a Force! that compels the Ocean Currents to

yield to its Magnetic Power; the Polar Circle! Controlling within itself the Centrifugal and the Centripetal forces of Electric Motive Power; that Electric and irresistible Submarine current of the Polar Circle, which, by its powerful impetus in Ages that are now forgotten, transported mighty Trees of Tropic climes, together with contemporaneous Bird and Animal life to the desolate shores of that Ocean of the North, within whose mysterious depths the Gulf Stream was evolved through the mechanism of Nature, by the action of Electric Force. Such is the Light of the North! A dreary prison of snow and ice Tenanted by the Degenerate Race of Prehistoric Man of the Glacial Age. The Darkness of Mystery envelops the frozen North.

"Westward! the Star of Empire takes its way," is a Universal Motto. The resistless march of Civilization has demonstrated this. A Truth! a half century before the Christian Era, the Roman Arms had completed the conquest of the Known World, the Ruling Spirit resolved to travel the highway of an illimitable Sea, which was yet to be cleft by the steel-prowed galleys of the mighty Roman, Julius Cæsar. Outward! Northwestward! swept the Roman Galleys. "The white cliffs of Albion" formed the blue horizon line. The savage islanders viewed the strangers from a far country as the Roman Standard entered Britain; Fifty-four years before The Christian Era. The

Roman Empire Began the Westward March of Conquest. For nearly Fifteen Hundred years the British Islands were the Western Gates of Civilization; Roman power and despotic rule had declined and fallen. Briton! Pict! Celt! and Scot! had long since learned the Arts of their ancient conquerors, and out of the ruins of a savage Community, had Organized a mighty Nation, versed in the Arts and Sciences of ancient Greece and Rome, thus combining in One People the vivid passion of the progressive Roman, with the commercial astuteness which to-day is the Characteristic Principle of the Great British Nation.

Among the subjects of this great Monarchy, which had in turn attained the Mastery of the World of Business and Literature, a small but determined company of devoted people resolved to seek a refuge beyond the cloud-fringed waves of the Atlantic. The bow of the Mayflower breasts the rolling billows of the Ocean. The sails are set to catch the seaward breeze; the course is to the Westward, Three Thousand Miles due West! Westward they sail for many weary days. The Storm-tossed Mayflower Anchors in a harbor. A landing is effected on a Great Rock by the Sea. Mary Chilton steps from the Shallop of the Mayflower. The first white woman known to America placed her foot upon Plymouth Rock. The first Prayer offered in America rises from the lips of John Carver as the little band of

Pilgrims kneel beneath the winter sky in the year 1620. For a Century and a half the colony of the West flourished. Strong Men had developed the resources of the New England! They had redeemed the land from its savage possessors. They believed in their own ability to govern themselves. The Declaration of American Independence on the Fourth of July, in 1776, was a convincing proof to the World that the Nation of the West! had fought and won their way to a place in the History of Nations; and yet the Westward March was but begun. The Border States contributed to the development of the Middle and Western lands. The golden dream of California in 1849 was but "The Gathering O' the Clans" from all parts of the civilized world. The eyes of the entire world are fixed upon this great country. The effete and useless Courts of Royalty, with one accord and unanimous voice, acknowledge the triumph of the Western World. The Halls of Montezuma, in the land of the Aztecs, are now in the possession of a people who, encouraged by the example of America, have thrown off the yoke of foreign oppression, and established The Republic of Mexico! amid the ruins of the Aztec Civilization. Cuba! writhing in the torture of oppression and despotic rule, looks with earnest eyes to the Republic of the West! Hawaii! from the far Pacific, Enters the Union of the West! From the Old World to the New! The march of

Nations progresses! Westward to America! Westward through America! to the Western Ocean! Westward to the Sandwich Islands. "Westward! the Star of Empire takes its way."

Still we are confronted by a Mystery! What is the meaning of the great Earth Mounds in the State of Ohio? Who were the people that erected these monumental tombs of a race that has forever vanished from the knowledge of man? We open the Mounds of Northern and Central America; and find human skeletons in sitting posture Facing toward the Rising Sun. Implements that antedate History are found with the remains of a Vanished Race! The Relics of a wonderful race are here before us. The People have disappeared. Their Dead *Facing the East.* Westward! through the Mound! all is Solemn and Dark. Mysterious silence! is the Monarch of Vanished Empire! All is Mysterious! Still there is a tiny ray of light that shines through the clouded ways of human investigation of the Past. These ancient people looked in a certain direction, even in the mounded tombs of their race. They looked toward the Rising Sun! They looked to the *East.* But Why? and the silent graves re-echo the question, Why? Civilized Man has met with Prehistoric Man. Man of the latest Century stands in the presence of The Man of the Primeval World before the Deluge. An Awful Mystery meets the Westward traveler. An Unsolved Problem in

human life and work. The Republic of the Present, with living, breathing virile life and progress, stands with motionless foot and arrested hand in the Court of Antiquity! where every trace of delicate thought and skillful labor is duplicated by a Republic of Mystery! Westward! And still the mystery deepens. Westward to the Sunset, and the Midnight of the Unknowable Southward! "At its Meridian height the Sun attains the Zenith point." The Dark Continent of Africa lies before the explorer, wrapped in Mystery. Ancient Africa! The primitive Birthland of weird Nations.

Liberia! The Nucleus of that future people, who by nature and progressive education, are destined to develop the grand problem of a National, Social, and Commercial Life, which will have a notable place in the brightening future of the redeemed Race of Africa. Across the Soudan to the Egypt! of ancient days, we stand awe-stricken in the presence of the temple of the Sphinx. Surrounded on either side by the *Lion Paws* of the powerful guardian of *the Desert Shrine!* We look at the giant Pyramids, the resting place of Kings, who ruled this land of Antiquity when the civilized lands of the Nineteenth Century were as yet untenanted by Man; We enter the causeway built from the Pyramid to the ancient Stone Quarries of Egypt, Eight miles in length, Built by the labor of One Hundred Thousand Men in Ten Years.

Southward! To the land of *Ethiopia*, To the mines of Ophir!

"Where Afric's sunny fountains,
Roll down their golden sand."

Southward! To the Diamond Fields of Kimberly, where, by the rich chemistry of Nature, the combined beauty of a thousand Rainbows is securely encased within the prismatic crystals of the great Gem* that now adorns the Crown Jewels of the British Throne. Still Southward! over the beautiful green veldt of Buchuana Land. Listen! to the "Meeting of the Waters" of Two Oceans!

"There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet,
As that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet."

Thus sang the Poet Moore, of the vale of Avoca! But the scene of peace and beauty, so sweetly portrayed by Ireland's Sweet Singer, was not the cloud-capped billows of the South Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, as with tumultuous crested waves they rush to meet and mingle amid the wild strains of thunderous music as the mad chorus of wind and wave is harmonized amid the varied voices of Nature's grand and glorious Symphony. Look Southward! from Cape Aguilhas toward The Southern Cross. Still there is Mystery! Silence! and Boundless Vision!

The Extremity of the Continental Universe is before our eyes. Oh Africa! Thou Sarcophagus of the

*The "Kohinoor."

dead and buried Past. The Cradle of the Arts and Sciences of which man has ever been a thoughtful student. The Arena, in which has been enacted some of the most wonderful events that have adorned the page of History or the Stone Tables of Early Man. The Cathedral! Within whose continental Architrave the awful rites of human sacrifice have been consummated for centuries in the vain hope of securing the favor or of Appeasing the anger of a Being! whose best claim to adoration from Mankind was The Power to inflict punishment upon those who from ignorance or preference should incur the displeasure of a Ruler whom they did not know. Within this great Cathedral! Man had vainly tried to gain knowledge of the Future! Priestcraft had also pretended to impart the desired information, but as in later times, Priestly learning failed to satisfy the hidden longing of the human Soul! Darkness! deep and impenetrable meets the traveler to the Southward. Thus we find Darkness and Mystery as the Boundary lines of the North! Its very existence proves the fact of a Glacial Period in the unwritten history of the terrestrial planet on which we live. Its very people are the relics of a Prehistoric Race that steadily retreated Northward before the advancing wall of Ice, until having reached the Polar Meridians, its progress was arrested, and the hapless race of human beings thus incarcerated became the fixed inhabitants of a country barred by

Nature from the rest of the world! Truly the Northland is a land of Mystery and Darkness, and the darkness deepens as we travel toward the West; a chain of Mounds extend from the great lakes to the southern gulf of North America.

The Mound of the great Serpent in Central Ohio is a problem to the scientific world; a graded Roadway! in the very heart of an uninhabited Wilderness! Beautiful Sculptured Ruins of Architectural and Geometric perfection in the forests of Central America! Forests that have flourished for many centuries since the ruins were inhabited by the builders. Who were the Mound Builders? Who Built the Beautiful Cities whose ruins still crown the summits of Artificial Mountains and Pyramids in Yucatan and Mexico? When! and for what purpose was the Grade of the Macadamized Roadway builded in the Wilderness of the North American Continent, which is now the center of a great population of Civilized people? What people builded the ramparts of Fort Ancient, in the State of Ohio? a Fortification that is standing to-day as evidence in Stone of a Vanished Race of people who were capable of defense? The Mounds are open for inspection! Their presence is Explained! A group of Human Forms occupy the ancient Burial Place! Gigantic Skeletons sit side by side along the Western Side of the mounded grave! The Eyeless Skulls all face in the same direction! Every Skeleton is looking

toward the *East!* This fact of itself is peculiarly significant, but it becomes more important as we pursue the course of scientific investigation. Raise the tangled undergrowth of tropic vegetation, rank with the accumulation of a Thousand Years of existence. We stand within the portals of a beautiful ruined Temple.* On the right and left of the massive ruined entrance way There stands a Tablet in Bas Relief; a curiously attired Form! beautiful in its graceful outline, Tastefully adorned with leaves and flowers whose counterpart was never seen by the Botanist of the later Centuries; Buds and Blossoms whose names and classification will never be learned. A Floral Mystery preserved in stone of Long, Long Ago! We enter the Audience Room of this ancient temple, and people it in imagination with similar human forms to the one that for centuries has guarded this lost shrine of a forgotten people. In this building gathered the people of the ruined city in the days of its beauty. Here! upon this floor of stone, stood the feet of the men that built the city; Here! Human Beings gathered in the worship of an unknown God. We penetrate farther into the dim recesses! But no "dim religious light" from Cathedral Dome or Convent Window illumines the utter darkness of this Chapel of a lost people; The tiny rays of light shine into the darkness from a torch in the hands of men of the Nineteenth Century, and as

*Temple of Uxmal. Stephens' Yucatan.

the flashing light pierces the gloom and mould of centuries, the traveler becomes conscious of An Awful Presence! We stand before an Altar of solid stone; the light is thrown across the Altar and discloses a Magnificent Tablet! embellished with beautiful carving fromthe hand of a Master Workman in the line of Artistic Sculpture, The Grinning Faces of horrible Monstrosities are linked in frightful companionship with writhing forms of awful Serpents, whose blazing eyes seem still to shine with the terrible venom of the Reptilian Age in its full Vigor ; Awful Faces! Drawn and set with expressions of fearful agony, peer out from between the serpentine folds in which the forms are enveloped; Terrible Eyes! are looking with fearful earnestness into the fascinated eyes of the children of earth in the later years of time ; But there is an object in the Centre that chains the eye; A Cross! Stands in the exact Centre; Perfect in form and beautifully ornamented with delicate carving and intricate designs interwoven with scroll-work and minute details, which in delicacy of design and beauty of execution, present evidence of a state of civilization and an attainment in the fine arts by the people of that remote period which compares favorably with the Civilization of the present day; and upon a close examination of this wondrous work, a Circle of Rays! are found emanating from every side of the Cross; The inference is instantaneous! A Cross! Lighted by the

Sun! And, as this strange circumstance flashes upon our startled intelligence, We look closer still, and then we find to our amazement, that the Altar is in the *East.* The Cross behind the Altar is in the "*Far East!*" The Rays of the Sun Light flash from the *Eastern Centre!* and in the light of this discovery, we notice more carefully the position of the sculptured faces with terrible eyes, and every Face with Awful Eyes is *Looking to the East.* What is the meaning of this *Eastern Look?* Why, in the Ages forgotten, did human beings build such Cities? Why did they build *Temples* and erect *Altars in the East?* Why did the cunning carvers cut those fearful Faces with Eyes looking *Eastward?* Why were the Burial Mounds filled with human skeletons seated on the Western side *Looking toward the East?* These questions present themselves to every thoughtful mind. There was certainly a Reason for these things, and as we try to solve this wonderful problem, a curious Fact is presented to our consideration, namely: That amid the mouldering ruins of the Cities of the Past, there is one class of buildings that has withstood the ravages of Time and the assaults of War, and the Elements, to a greater extent than all others! Cities, whose very names have been obliterated from the annals of History and the records of Commerce, are still remembered by the Ruins of their Temples of Worship! The Temple of Karnac, in Egypt, marks the site of the

City of On! which is known to later times as "Thebes with her hundred Gates." This Temple, which was 1,200 feet in length, 330 feet in width, was dedicated to the worship of Amen-Ra, "God of the Sun," 2300 years before Christ was born; The people of Ancient Egypt worshipped the God of the Sun. The Temple of the Sun stands in ruins in the City of Baalbek, in Syria; six of the original columns are still standing in this Temple of the Sun. These columns were fifty-eight feet in height and twenty-two feet in circumference, and were beautifully carved according to Corinthian style. This beautiful temple was erected for the worship of the Sun. The City Baalbek! was "The City of the Sun." The people were Sun Worshippers, and thus we find that Sun Worship was universal in ancient Syria. Sun Worship was also practiced by the people of ancient Persia, because the Books of Persian Literature ascribe the name of Zeus as their God. The Ancient people of Scandinavia were worshippers of the Sun God; and under the name of Odin their temples were built for his worship. Temples that were built for the worship of Jupiter are standing in ruins in every land where Greece has placed her standard of power. The Grecian Mythology is responsible for the worship of the Ideal! In all lands, from ancient to modern times, and at the head of all the long list of Mythological Deities, Jupiter Olympus stands alone. Jupiter Olympus!

"Child of the Sun" and "God of the Sun." The Canaanites as a people Worshipped the God of the Sun under the universal name of Baal; and it is a fact that is proven by historic record and scientific research that among every one of these ancient people there seems to have been but one object in view, and that every method of worship and all forms of sacrifice were instituted under the impression that the Effort to please and propitiate the Power! that was supposed to Rule and regulate the laws of Nature and the affairs of men, would be accepted by that Being who would reward the worshipper with suitable blessings in strict proportion to the faith of the worshipping devotee, and a strict and careful tracing of the worship of past centuries will finally and inevitably lead to the Sun! as the one great source of light, heat, and natural Life; This was the Origin of, and the Reason for, the Worship of the Sun. The human Eye was blinded by its brightness. The heat of the Sun rays forced Man and Beast to seek shelter from its intensity and deadly effects. The Trees of the Forest acknowledge its power by special growth and development in the direction of the Sun. The Vapors of earth were dispelled by the powerful heat. Water and Fire responded to the magnetic force of the great controlling cause of Earth life and Earth light. The Elementary System of the visible Universe was a closed Book to the eyes of natural man, although he

had observed these simple yet wonderful facts for Ages! But his mind was naturally directed to the Sun simply because it was the most conspicuous object in the entire range of his natural vision.

The Men of the River Drift looked at the Sun from beneath the cliffs of prehistoric river beds, his natural and only home. Paleozoic and Neolithic Man watched the sunbeams as they glistened upon the shaft of polished Flint, lashed to the staves of wood by thongs of hide that fitted in the groove. Men of the Age of Bronze, built their fires by the aid of the Sun, and as the flames of the primitive forge ascended from the charred and blackened face of the mountain Smithy, The Arian Smith, as he welded the metals of Copper and Tin, recognized in the Sun rays a Power! which, though he did not understand, he duly appreciated because of the inestimable service that it rendered in the use of Fire. Thus Man has pursued his upward course, beginning at the lowest grade and rising by a gradual ascent through the intervening Ages of slowly increasing Light! Man emerged from the lower into the higher planes of thought and action. This progress of Man inducted him into certain relations with his fellow-beings that called upon his power of invention and execution of his various devices.

The Age of Iron was an Epoch in the history of the human race. Communities were formed, Rights were created, and in the majority of cases maintained by a

rude code of primitive law between man and his fellow-man. Weapons of defense were needed and manufactured. Leaders were chosen by virtue of their prowess in war, and rude ideas of government were discussed and adopted in the tribal and Communistic life of man. As personal Strength, Stature, and Courage were the first requisites of Leadership among a savage people, so Man, by slow degrees and gradual awakening powers of mind, reached a point when the Reasoning faculty asserted itself, and he was no longer contented to simply exist in a mere animalistic life upon earth. His Mind had kept pace with his physical advancement, and, as man was no longer content to live in a Rock Shelter, or within a Cave beneath the River Cliff, but had builded artificial places of shelter, Roofed from the storm of Winter and from the Summer heat; So, in the same proportion, Man demanded a satisfactory Reason for the strange, new ideas that were thrilling his awakened Nature through the medium of his Reasoning Mind. Man lifted his eyes toward the heavens that canopied the blue space above his inquiring head; he saw the countless Stars gleaming through the darkness and silence of the ancient Night. He saw the Moon, "Pale Empress of the night," as fresh from the hand of the All-Wise! it passed in a halo of serene glory through the celestial constellations of starry splendor that were yet young in their orbits. Man closed his eyes upon

the magnificent spectacle, and pillowed his weary head upon the green lap of his Mother Earth; he felt the approach of Unconsciousness, as it stole upon him and closed his tired eyes. Man slept until the sound of music rang through the tree tops. Thousands of wings are fluttering in the crisp Morning Air. The Flowers are opening their beautiful petals. The little wild animals are awakening and playing in their lairs. All Nature feels the impulse of a grand and glorious New Life. A thousand shades of Color gleam upon the fleecy clouds. The Hill-tops are aglow with tips of flame, as from height to height the glittering radiance leaps and flashes until a shaft of brilliant Light, keen and blazing with Electric Fire, rests an instant upon the Sleeper's eyes! The man is Awake! The Rising Sun has flashed the searchlight of Nature around and through her universal dominions. Again! Man looks! and again the dazzling light is shining in his eyes with a wondrous penetrative power that clouds the retina with a kaleidoscopic confusion in a mingled chaos of Color! Man shades his eyes with his broad and heavy hand; he bows the shaggy Arian Head! his gigantic form again lies prostrate upon the earth; the Sun claims a worshipper. Man, for the first time, is "Looking Toward The *East!*" Northward! Is Darkness, Cold, and silent Mystery! Westward! Are Ruins of Vanished Races, Silence, and Mystery! Southward! And Superstition is a Darkness of Mystery!

Eastward! *"A Great Light!" Rises to "Open the day"* for Man! The Rising Sun in the eastern horizon was a sublime sight to the eyes of prehistoric Man. That it was a real power there was and could be No Doubt in his mind. Man, having within his being the germ of a Mental Nature, began to develop that nature, and, as the first step in the development of his reasoning faculties, Man was predisposed by his nature to question his surroundings, and that which he did not understand he naturally learned to fear! And, because of this fear of the Unknown and glorious *Light in the East*, Man began a rude and primitive system of worship. Day after day as the rays of the Rising Sun illumined the darkness of the primeval night, Man arose from his rude lair and saluted the glorious Light as a wonderful Power that he feared, and yet had learned to look for its daily apppearance; he learned through the same avenue of fearful thought to invest that great light with human attributes of favor and hatred from the standpoint of his own crude reason. Man regarded the Sun as a being endowed with all the passionate hate, which seemed to be the chief trait of Early Man. Such a being must naturally be mollified, and his anger appeased at any cost, and the mind of man suggested the Gift of a Valuable object to this being, or God of the Sun. And, as Fire was the element of heat, and the properties of the Sun consisted of Light and Heat, the

Method of the Offering to The God suggested itself to the gradually awakening human mind. The Offering must be Burned with Fire, because the flame ascended, as man believed, into the Sun. This was the beginning of the Worship of the Sun. Nearly 6000 years of Human History have winged their rapid flight across the skies of Time, and still the Sun is Rising day by day in the far horizon of *The East!*

Man! The babe of the Nineteenth Century no longer worships the Sun, as a Being, a Creature, or a God of Power! But still the same problem that exercised the dawn of human Reason in the brain of Arian Manhood and caused him to bow down and worship the Unknown Light! causes Man of later times in the very midst of the varied lights of History! of Learning! and of vast Experience! which has been gathered and treasured up in the libraries of the World's Civilization, by the trained minds of the leaders of the Mental Kingdom of the Human Race, to still pause! in the seeming Acme of real Knowledge and to ask the same question of Mother Nature, that his Arian Brother wished blindly to understand, What Is the Cause of the Sun? Why Is its Presence a Fact? How Long Will it continue to diffuse Light to the World? Who? or What? Was the First Cause! or Creator! of this vast Universe of Worlds? Why? Is the stupendous System governed by such perfect and regular Law? Why? Does the Sun rise at all? Why?

Does the Earth Need the Sun? Why? Is anything! as it is, or seems to be, in Nature or in Man? These are the questions that are propounded by the minds of men which are separated from, and lighted intellectually by, 6000 years of actual History replete with the radiance of learning from the times of the Arian, until the times of the wonderful Present. And these questions are the more important when we remember that they must be answered by the same faculty of mind that asks them! namely, Reason! There is but one way to find the truthful Solvency of this great Problem that has ever baffled human Investigation! For Truth! And the Answer! "Man must *Look to the East.*" We must look toward the *East* for light in Art and Science; for there is not one of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences that cannot be traced backward through the years of time to its Birthland in the *far East!* The First of the Liberal Arts is Grammar* "Which teaches the proper arrangement of words according the idiom or dialect of any particular people, and that excellence of pronunciation which enables us to speak or write a language with accuracy agreeably to reason and correct usage," and for a basic point from which a proper understanding of the true properties of language may be derived, the student of the language of the present century is forced by the very nature of the case to

* "Ecce Orienti."

leave the present age and examine with care and patience the ancient tongues of Greece and Rome; In order that from the Greek and Latin tongues he may be enabled to discern, and thus proportionately to adjust the legacy of correct speech which by derivation and application has been bequeathed to the people of the present age of the world. And the earnest study of this beautiful art of Grammar will show the faithful student that, although this art has been lighted from time to time by the wonderful genius of gifted grammarians, Yet for the real light of the art of Grammar, in its perfection of beauty and elegance of construction and expression, he must look toward the *ancient Eastern land.* The second Liberal Art is the art of Rhetoric, which is closely allied with the art of Grammar, and so close is this alliance that one is inseparable from the other, in the perfect rendition of thought which demands the *strength and beauty* of the equally adjusted principles of Grammar and Rhetoric to complete the union of positive yet graceful terms of speech whether voiced by the gifted Orator in the impassioned flow of fiery eloquence impelled by the resistless power of the genius of imagination or transcribed by the sensitive Author whose sense of language is portrayed in the true poesy of the soul life—intensified by the conflicting and changing emotions which cause the volcanic fires of genius to burst the bounds of everyday

existence in a repressive state and in defiance of all the laws known to the human mind pour forth the molten stream of force and elegance of thought and language in the terms of Grammar and Rhetoric. Thus the art of "Rhetoric teaches us to speak copiously and fluently on any subject not merely with propriety alone. but with all the advantages of force and elegance, wisely contriving to captivate the hearer by strength of argument and beauty of expression, whether it be to entreat and exhort, to admonish or applaud," and for this reason the arts of Grammar and Rhetoric are inseparable companions in language. But although they are thus united in the language of the present, still the literary excellence of the world of letters relies upon the Classic of the blind Grecian whom in the "Iliad of Ancient Troy" immortalized the name of Homer. Although the gifted spirits of the centuries have awakened the echoes of the halls of learning; have thundered forth the Law, in the supreme courts of the later civilization; have roused the sleeping lion of war in the clarion notes of magnetic commandership. Yet the Orator, the Author, the Poet, must ever bow to the Art of Rhetoric and Grammar as it was employed by Homer, the epic Poet! Socrates, the learned Writer! and by Demosthenes, the golden-tongued Orator of the ancient, classic, eastern world of literature; Grammar, and Rhetoric, are ancient and honorable companions;

and thus the student of Language, in order to discern truthfulness of assertion, classical correctness, forcible expression, and delicacy of thought must ever "*Look Toward the East.*" The Art of Logic! Is the powerful lever of solid reason, united with keen perceptive abilities, and, *"It teaches us to guide our reason discriminately in the general knowledge of things, and directs our inquiries after truth. It consists of a regular train of argument, whence we infer, deduct, and conclude according to certain principles laid down, omitted, or granted—and, in it are employed the faculties of conceiving, judging, reasoning, and disposing—all of which are naturally laid on from one gradation to another, till the point in question is finally determined." This is the noble and liberal art of Logic! Whereby a just and decisive verdict may be reached and rendered by a strict adherance to the principles thus declared. The Logic of Plato is a classic law, and the calm Logic of Seneca is immortalized in the history of ancient Rome, and for this noble art of Logic we must "*Look Toward the East.*"

The Art of Arithmetic! Is indispensable to the development of man. The Oceans of the globe are crossed by invisible lines of latitude and longitude. The Business of the commercial world is governed by laws of interest and actual time—because, for the suc-

* Ecce Orienti.

cessful pursuance of business, it is a necessity that there be an established law, or rate, which is fixed according to accurate calculation. A Law of Numbers, whereby an immovable base of observation may be established, from which base a calculation, in any given direction, shall equalize its bearings by the rule of lawful equation governed by the basic point of fact. So, for this reason, *"The Art of Arithmetic teaches the powers and properties of numbers—which is variously affected letters, tables, figures, and instruments. By this Art, reasons and demonstrations are given for finding out any certain numbers, whose relation or affinity to another is already known or discovered." In the practice of Arithmetic, the world of the present is fully conversant, and yet, while calculations of such accuracy are now computed, that the very globe has been measured in mileage, and its weight ascertained and declared to be correct—while the slightest fraction of depression, or advancement in commercial values, is calculated daily, by the most finished accountants of the business world—still, we simply employ the Art for its intrinsic value as a means by which our interests are perfectly served and our lawful business adjusted, without a thought as to the origin and birthplace of the royal science of Arithmetic. Still again, we are directed to the classic land of Greece—to the Platonic school of Philosophy,

* Ecce Orienti.

and the Mathematical school of Alexandria, which were flourishing institutions before the Christian Era. The rigorous method, and arrangement of these justly famous Arithmetical schools, was the initial step to the recognition of scholarship throughout the future ages of the World's historic life. And again! for this noble Art we must "*Look Toward the East.*"

The Art of Music! Is the source of pleasure and reflective thought, as *the listening ear* receives the harmonious melodies, which it is superbly endowed by Nature to absorb and transmit to the brain of the attentive hearer. A minute and carefully balanced collection of sounds, each related by a law of modulation that forms a combination of Vibratory chords, in a delicate and intricate network of symphony—directed and controlled by the mathematical lawof Time. *"Music is the Art of forming concords, so as to compose delightful harmony by a mathematical and proportional arrangement of Acute, grave, and mixed sounds—this art, by a series of experiments, is reduced to a demonstrative science—with respect to tunes and the intervals of sound. It inquires into the nature of concords and discords, and enables us to find out the proportion between them, by numbers." The World in general loves Music. The Mother lulls her child to sleep, by singing, with low, sweet voice, the mesmeric stanza of a lullaby or a soft-toned cradle

*Ecce Orienti.

song. The heart is thrilled with memories! as the sweet cadences of a lovely strain of music are wafted upon the soul-waves of thought and reason, and recollections of the long buried Past! arise—and solemn silence rules the spirit, with memories, of "Sweet Departed Days," of "Long, Long Ago." But! When did the soul-entrancing Art appear upon the great worldwide amphitheatre of the practical scenes of human existence? Long before the days of Mozart! Before the days of *Canovas or Stradivarius! Before the days of David, "the sweet singer of Israel"—who, by means of the grand music of his wonderful "harp of solemn sound," was enabled to exorcise the evil spirit in the brain of mighty Saul! Aye! even before the days of Miriam! That splendid leading voice of Israel's virgin Daughters, who, standing upon the Arabian shore, raised the Song of Israel's triumph over her enemies. Music is co-existent with the human race. The Tocsin Bell of the Aztec! The Tom Tom of the Savage! The Fife and Drum of the civilized warriors of the world of nations! The soft tones of the Italian Harp! The inexpressible sweetness of the Spanish Guitar! The Oriental abandon and delightful music of the Persian Lute! The lovely mournful notes of the Jewish Harps, that were hung upon the willows by the streams of Babylon, during the captivity of Zion! The glad notes of *Jeptha's Daugh-*

* Celebrated Makers of Violins.

ter, as she came to meet her victorious Father! The Morning Stars! that "Sang together," as David recorded in the book of Psalms. Still Music! Has a Higher, Nobler office among the Arts! Angel Tongues! "Sang the Greeting" to the *Child of the East!* Angel voices! Thrilled the wintry morning air of Judean shepherd plains—"Gloria in Excelsis Deo," Glory to God in the Highest! "On Earth Peace! Good Will Toward Man!" To understand the science of Music! We must ever "*Look Toward the East!*"

The Science of Astronomy! Is a study of the celestial worlds that are in the heavens above the terrestrial planet which is known as The Earth in contradistinction to the bright and seemingly luminous bodies which course their way in regular motion in obedience to the mighty Force that supports and controls all movements of the Universe. And this study is one that can not fail to impress the thoughtful mind with the sense of the infinitismal position of Man amid the tremendous works of nature. Man, whose very being, in a physical and mental light, is limited by the circumference of the smallest planet of the great system, "What is Man that Thou art mindful of him?" * "Astronomy is that divine art by which we are taught to read the *Wisdom*, *Strength*, and *Beauty* of the Almighty Creator in the open pages of the Celestial Spheres, and, assisted by

*Ecce Orienti.

Astronomy, we can observe the motions and measure the distances, comprehend the magnitude, and calculate the periods and eclipses of the heavenly bodies. By it we learn the use of the globes, the system of the world, and the preliminary law of nature. While we are thus employed in the study of this science, we must perceive unparalleled instances of wisdom and goodness, and through the whole creation trace the glorious Author by his works." This is the teaching of the grand art of Astronomy, and the student of this scientific course among the cloudland regions of celestial heights, is certain to propound this pointed question: Where did the Study of Astronomy first begin? To-day the telescope of the Astronomic world is set within the triangle that determines the position of the planet, Mars. Mars! the Red planet. Mars! the centre of interest to terrestrial students of Astronomy. The Astronomer of the present must turn to the pages of the Assyrians if he would certify the real value of later observations. The Obelisks of Ancient Egypt must be carefully examined, and the hieroglyphs with which they are covered must be deciphered. The Temples of the Ancient and Mediæval World of men must be diligently searched. Even the name Astronomy is derived from the Greek word "Astron," (a Star), and the word "Nomos" (Law), or, in other words, Astronomy is the law of the Stars!

The Telescope of the Astronomer sweeps the heavens, and myriad stars of constellated power pass across the disc; the mental telescope of reason is adjusted by the thoughtful student as he traverses the great universe of Astronomic information, and beholds the wonderful extent of Ages of past research and later discovery, and with expectant eyes he moves the glass of reason and levels it in a certain direction, pointing to Assyria, the magic home of early wisdom in ages past, sets the reflector to absorb and retain every ray of Astronomic Light from the teaching of Zoroaster and his contemporary men of wisdom. For truth in Astronomy, We must "*Look toward the East!*" But the crowning Science is the Art in which All the principles of the minor teachings are blended in one grand harmonic chord of divine inspiration and sublime and perfect melody. All the beauty of grammatic language is required to express the perfect and matchless power of the All-wise Creator. All the sublime force of correct language, combined with the most exquisite elegance of diction is interwoven in a chain of eloquence to bear up the strain of Rhetorical effort to describe the glorious radiant splendor of the chief gem in the glittering galaxy of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences! All the weight of sound Logic is used in this art as the balance wheel of this wonderful and complicated scientific piece of machinery.

All the discoveries of Arithmetic, from the rule of three to the *47th Problem of Euclid*, are needed for the solvency of this, the greatest of all scientific problems of the Universe of Art. The rhythmic chords of melodic strains of Music, curved by angles of mathematical precision, lend a sweet and beauteous vista to the Geometric Art, as the raindrops of the summer shower are diamonded beneath the *Royal Arch* of the Rainbow! by the flashing rays of the *Luminary!* which *Opens, Governs, and Adorns the Day.* Astronomy, with the lense of stellar vision poised at an angle of years of time, pivoting upon epochs, counted by Ages of celestial circles around the Sun; Ages, of Solar and Stella changes; Planets! that have filled the measure of their appointed circuits of years of perpetual traveling within their own respective orbits have almost disappeared from the planetary system through the wearing of Cycles of Centuries and the changing circles of the celestial planes of planetary position. Meteors! that have been thrown at a tangent from their parent satellite of distant planets; Wild, roving masses of flaming wreckage of starry worlds; Nebulæ of matter that in the distant Ages yet to appear may be resolved into definite and final form. Thus does Astronomy level the Concave lense of the Future, and carefully examine the starry fold above.

A backward glance through the convexed lens of Actual Astronomic Time reveals a table of scientific

facts that must be perfectly adjusted by the chief of all the arts which is Geometric knowledge and calculation—the future is but darkly revealed as yet, because of the clouds of Doubt and the storms and tempests of dissenting minds. The Astronomer, therefore, has recourse to a stronger science—a science that, like the Eagle from the cloud-capped peak, faces the Sun. Faces, the puny doubts of narrow-minded prejudice, with the true and well-defined outlines of Truth—which is only to be measured by the Cubic Square of Honesty and the Triangle of Honor, Virtue, and Charity—and as Geometry is the Science of the measurement of space with a given point, definite Lines of Length, Breadth, and Thickness, determined by unvarying Rules, So in the grand major scale of the wonderful works of man combined with efforts to understand the marvellous handiwork of the Creator, there is but one way for the mind to travel in the earnest search for light upon all human science. The Wisdom of Ages past, is treasured in Geometry. All the developments of the future will be measured, and weighed, appraised at true valuation, and given to the scientific world by the Royal Science of Geometry—as Euclid, in the excess of joy at the solvency of his great *Forty-seventh Problem*, cried Eureka! ("I have found it"). So may we, guided by the principles of Geometric, and Speculative Reason, bow mentally at the Altar of scientific Truth, with

our faces toward the East—the sunrise home of real and lasting Light, and with reverence, and love, receive the True Light, from the Great Geometrician of The Universe of Worlds. The true light of the Mind is "*Speculative Geometry*"—which, like its original counterpart in mathematics, is as broad in general view and as rigid in adherence to a fixed principle of Fact and Logical Reasoning—and a patient, careful study of human life, with a just and reasonable perception of seeming cause, and actual effect, will inevitably lead the possessor of such a mind to long for knowledge of that which has been enacted in the world, before his advent into it, and by the actual exercise of the faculties of his mental power, a reflux influence is established within that mind to gain at least a glimpse of that mysterious future, toward which he, in obedience to an unwritten, yet stern, law of nature together with the entire human family, is traveling by and by to reach, "That undiscoveredCountry! From whose mysterious bourne no traveler returns." It is then and then only that the Mind feels the presence of the darkness of nature, and with it a realizing sense of the need of enlightenment. It is then! that, like the untutored child of nature in her primeval state, We, too, build an Altar of our hopes and fears, and, ofttimes mistaking the transient gleam of a passing Emotion, for a real happiness, and forgetting that as the shadows of evening will obscure

the Sunlight, so the clouds of Real Life must overshadow and bury in darkness the once bright and happy times which "Were too sweet to last." Still Man living in this darkened, saddened condition of Soul and Mind grasps at every fleeting shadow of Hope, he becomes embittered by the repeated shattering of his Ideals and the awful burden of the disappointment of life—and like a hunted animal, weary of the ceaseless, harassing, maddening cares of a fate for which he is not responsible, yet which holds him in an iron grip of trouble, cries out, in the poignant anguish of a Tortured Soul!

"Oh for a lodge in some vast wilderness!"

He feels alone! Amid the company of his fellows his ear is deafened by the confused hum of the discord of Buyer and Seller of material things. He turns to Literature and reads of other men, who, like himself, have traveled the uneven pathway of earthly life, and after vainly bowing in worship at the shrines of all the so-called relievers! of the awful fever of a ruined life, had laid aside forever! a pen that was powerless to find expression of the dull, quiet, hopeless, spirit of Resignation to Fate which like a pall of despair, had wrapped the soul in the sable hue of a fearful Regret, mingled with and shaded by the awful mockery of the shifting colors of apparent content! That this is a Reality in human existence, there is and can be no doubt—failing in

the realization of an Ideal Life—we resign Ambition and calmly accept the inevitable! This is the actual condition of many a thoughtful nature who, after hard study linked with actual life experience and logical Reasoning, have felt the force of the declaration of *the Wise King* who declared after a Wide experience of Life! that

> "In much Wisdom is much Grief, and
> He that increaseth Knowledge, increaseth Sorrow."

We find that the earnest desire for Real Knowledge for its own sake is confined to a very few minds in the arena of learning: that while many linger in the pleasant Outer Courts of Knowledge, and content themselves with the bright though less valued gems that lie within easy reach of any one, and have a market or face value that is easily convertible into sordid gain, there are but few who care to bury themselves in the mines of Rich Knowledge and delve amid darkness and sorrow of mind and loneliness of Soul for the priceless pearl of the literal Knowledge of the Realities of human life. This was the lamentable condition of many gifted ones who, by the irony of an adverse fate, were born in the ages of mental darkness and hopeless misery of despair. Into this gloomy midnight of the life of man came the faint gleam of a shaft of light. Egypt had been the Mother of Nations. Her Obelisks and Pyramids were covered with the descriptive hieroglyphics of the

Victories of her mighty ones. Pa-Ra! The God of the Sun! was the proud title of their Royal Leader. An Altar was erected in the great Temple of Karnac, and upon it were laid the daily sacrifices to the Sun God. Horus, the golden-horned Bull was also worshipped as a powerful Deity. The King desired a Treasure City to be built in order that the vast wealth of Egypt might be securely protected, and among the workmen there were men who were the lineal descendants of Jacob, the Israelite! These men remembered a Covenant that had been made with Abraham! by the God of Abraham, The God of Jacob; and, although they were now in captivity in a distant land, still this tradition of God's Promise to Abraham was well remembered, and even in the dark days of Egyptian slavery there was a dim hope that in the future this Promise would be faithfully kept by the great Ruler! The Worship of the Sun had never been observed by this peculiar people; they bore the burden of life determinedly, though in sadness and with heavy hearts; but a period of relief was already appearing for them. Their Leader! a man of great faith in the Jewish Traditions, bowed in prayer to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob! and, relying on the Ancient Covenant, Moses pleaded for help. A *Bush* in the wilderness of Midian *flames with fire* before the astonished eyes of Moses. His *attentive ear* hears a voice! *"I Am That I Am!"* I am

the God of thy Father! The God of Abraham! The God of Isaac! And the God of Jacob.

I am Come Down to Deliver Thee: (Ex:3-6). A light of hope began to dawn in the mind of Moses as he heard the wonderful message, The God of Ancient Israel had spoken! and had Renewed his Promise of Deliverance. In the meantime the oppression of the Israelites was increased. The careful reader of the Book of Exodus will note the Record of a series of persecutions upon the Hebrew Race, because they had steadfastly refused to worship the Sun God of the land of Egypt. Their daily tasks were increased by the special order of the King, and the oppression was greater than the people could bear with patience. At this juncture there was noticed by those in charge of the captives, that special times were set for the daily prayer which was offered without Altar or Sacrifice to the God of the Hebrew people. The news was carried to the King, who was so incensed at the information, that he at once ordered the tasks to be again increased, under a heavy penalty if the slightest infringement of the royal command should be committed by the unhappy captives; and, as the darkness of Egyptian cruelty was deepening around them, The God of Israel! Intervened by sending a plague upon the entire people of Egypt that affected none but the natives of the country. The Hebrews were singularly

free from the diseases that had so suddenly come upon the people; and, after varied visitations which were all disastrous to the Egyptians, their King or Pa-Ra! (Heb-Pharaoh) was prevailed upon to release them; but, after giving his consent, the King changed his mind, and still commanded the Overseers to increase the daily tasks of the Captive Hebrews. Then, in desperation, the people begged Moses to plead for them with the God of Ancient Israel for Relief from their Oppressors. This he did! and, as a result of his advice and under his direction, the Hebrews prepared themselves to leave the land of Egypt. A Lamb was killed in every Hebrew home on a certain day. The Blood of that Lamb was sprinkled upon the lintel of the door, The Body was roasted entirely whole, and the Unleavened Dough was hastily baked, and, with the staff of the traveler in their hands, they partook of the meal thus hurriedly prepared, and when the rays of the Morning Sun dawned upon the land of Egypt There was not a house in the entire Kingdom but mourned the death of the first born of the family. "And there was a great cry in Egypt: for there was not a house where there was not one dead." (Ex. 12:30.) This terrible visitation decided the course of the King of Egypt, for "He called for Moses and Aaron and said Rise and get you forth! from among my people, and go and serve The Lord as ye have said." Moses and

the Hebrews took the King at his word. They departed and reached the border of the sea of Egypt! The people were in a most unpromising situation. Their progress was barred by the Red Sea! and behind them were the enemies of Israel—for, Again the King of Egypt had changed his mind and had dispatched an army to overtake and recapture them. They were in a pitiful condition. But, at the supreme moment, when the situation was the most critical, a startling circumstance occurred, "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the waters were divided, and the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground, and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand and on their left." This is a description of that scene that is written in the book of Exodus! and it was regarded as an omen of good fortune by and for the Hebrews, who upon reaching the Arabian shore were greeted by the fearful sight of the mighty Waves resuming their former level, and 600 Chariots and Horses, together with the entire army of Egypt, were buried and drowned in the awful depths of the returning waters. This is the historic account of a people who had been in a state of slavery—without a preconceived plan of action, without Arms, a perfectly helpless people, and yet a people that were seemingly under the protection of a Supreme Power—That simply Opened the Sea for their passage, at the action of their

leader in stretching out his hand over the rolling waters. This is the only instance known in Tradition of the law of Nature being set aside at the will of Man, until the time of the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt land. As the Hebrews were the only people that ever claimed to have found the True God, it becomes imperative upon the Student of history to follow this strange people until he shall find complete Evidence that they were not deceived by that power in which they trusted in such a marked and unexampled manner as to begin an actual journey of unknown length, through a trackless Wilderness, in a hurried flight from the only place that they had ever known as home; even though in slavery, It was Home! It is necessary that a Record be found upon the tablets of contemporaneous peoples, with whom the Hebrews must have met while in their journey to and in the Wilderness and the Land of the Canaanites, during the succeeding events of this remarkable pilgrimage. The Record of Any One Nation of people must, of a necessity, be identical with the Contemporaneous Records of Other people with whom Trade or Warfare institutes the need of a Record of Facts! Which, to be True, must be Identical with each other as to the literal, truthful Facts! which exist. The Hebrew Record! Tells us that "The Lord Spake unto Moses," saying, "And let them make me a Sanctuary, that I may dwell among them, according to All that I show

thee, after the pattern of The Tabernacle! And they shall make an Ark of shittim wood; two Cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a Cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a Cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt put *into the Ark!* The testimony which I shall give thee." (Ex. 25:1, 9, 10, 16.) The Record of the Hebrews declares that their God told Moses to build a Sanctuary, and that an Ark was to be built of a certain kind of Wood, and built according to measurement in exact figures and cubit dimensions, and that a Pattern was given to Moses from the very lips of The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is a wonderful claim of that people of Israel—a claim that is far greater in its assertion than that of any other people in the history of the human race on earth. Never! upon the enduring Tablet of Stone, the Skin of Beast, the Roll of Manuscript or the Volumes of the World of Literature, was such An Astounding Assertion Cut, Engraved, Written, or Printed, as the contents of the Record of the Hebrews in the Book of The Exodus! This record is startling, in the plainness of its details in regard to the supernatural intervention of The Almighty God. For not only was the pattern and measurement of the Ark revealed to Moses, But the actual Builder was chosen and named by The Lord. (Ex. 31:1, 2, 6.) "And The Lord Spake unto Moses, Saying, See! I have called by name Bezaleel, the son of Uri, and I have filled him

with The Spirit of God, in Wisdom, and in Understanding, and in Knowledge, to devise cunning works, to work in Gold, and in Silver, and in Brass, and in cutting of Stones, to Set them, and in Carving of Timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. And Behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put Wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee." Thus, we are informed by The Hebrew Record that the God of the Hebrews commanded, by word of mouth, that an Ark should be made according to His own directions, and, in addition to this, we are further informed that "He gave unto Moses Two Tables of Stone! Tables of Testimony! Written with the finger of God." And in the Book of the Exodus, in the 32nd chapter, the Record tells us that "The Tables were the Work of God and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables." And we read also that the people, having grown weary of waiting for the return of Moses from the mountain, had made an Idol of Gold in the form of a Calf, and were worshipping this idol, as Moses was returning with the Two Tables of Stone in his hands, and that Moses, in anger at their idolatrous practices, cast down and broke the two tables of stone, after which he was instructed by The Lord! To "*Hew* Two New Tables of Stone, like unto the first." (Ex. 34:1.) And Moses obeyed the

order and he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first. "And Moses went up into Mount Sinai, and took in his hand the two tables of stone."

There, The Ten Commandments were Repeated by The Lord, who said to Moses: "Write Thou These Words." And in obedience to this order "He Wrote upon the Tables, the words of the Covenant, The Ten Commandments." We must notice that the First Tables were written on Both their sides, after the most ancient manner known to Man, and that the writing was Graven upon them by The Finger of God. But the Second Tables of Stone were hewed by Moses at the command of The Lord, and the Repetition of The Ten Commandments from the lips of The Lord, was Written upon the Second Tables of Stone by the hand of Moses, at the express Order of The Lord! These Two Tables of Stone were successfully carried by Moses from the mountain of Sinai, into the midst of the congregation of the people of Israel. These were the Tables of Testimony! and bore upon their faces the actual Covenant which The Lord declared should be a perpetual and solemn compact with the children of Israel. It was for their reception and preservation that the Ark was built, and it was because of their sacred origin that the people, even in a rude and unlettered Age, were taught to regard the Ark as a sacred repository of the Spoken Word of God—the Word of a mighty Being, that by his limitless

power had proved himself the Ruler of the forces of Nature, and by his readiness to forgive his people had also proved himself a loving and patient Protector of a people who had put their trust in Him. For this reason, the Ark which contained the two tables of stone, was called the Ark of the Covenant—Because God had covenated with his people, and had Recorded it by the hand of Moses, and, then had preserved it in an Ark which had been built in a special manner to receive the Covenant. God had also named the man whom he had selected to build the Ark—and the Records tell us that "Bezaleel Made The Ark of Shittim Wood, and that its Height, Length, and Breadth, corresponded with the figures of measurement as given by The Lord, namely, that the Length was $2\frac{1}{2}$ Cubits, or 4 ft. 7 in.; That the Breadth was a Cubit and a half, or 2 ft. 9 in., and the Height was the same as the Breadth, or a Cubit and a half. So that by allowing 22 in. to a Cubit, we have the exact dimensions of The Ark of the Covenant, which were as follows, according to modern measurements of the Cubit: 4 ft. 7 in. long, 2 ft. 9 in. Wide, and 2 ft. 9 in. high. We also find a complete detailed account of the appearance of The Ark; and after a careful perusal of the 37th of Ex., we find that "He overlaid it with Pure Gold, within and without, and he cast for it Four Rings of Gold, to be set by the four corners of it—Two Rings upon the one side, and

Two Rings upon the other side of it. And he made Staves of shittim wood and overlaid them with Gold. And he put the Staves into the Rings by the sides of the Ark, to Bear the Ark." And so the Reader will see at once that Bezaleel and Aholiab executed this work exactly in accord with the Pattern given by the Lord. In the 40th Chap. of The Exodus, There is a glimpse of Light as to the real Reason of The Tabernacle, and The Ark of The Covenant being builded by the Israelites, during a Wilderness march of many weary years. "And The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, On the First Day of the First Month, shalt thou Set Up the Tabernacle of the Tent of the Congregation, and thou shalt put therein the Ark of the Testimony, and Cover the Ark with the Vail. And it came to pass in the First month, in the Second Year, on the First Day of the month, that the Tabernacle was Reared Up."

This was the Year of 1490 B. C., and therefore can be cited as Positive and valuable Evidence of the erection of a structure for the purpose of Worship of the Lord—a building that was designed and builded by the direction of God and yet erected by man. "And Moses reared up the Tabernacle as The Lord commanded Moses and he took and *put the Testimony into the Ark.* And set the Staves on the Ark, and he brought the Ark into the Tabernacle, and set up the *Vail* of the covering, and covered the Ark of the Tes-

timony, as the Lord commanded Moses." This was the Beginning of a System of Worship which was to be forever devoid of all Idolatry—Carved, or Molten Images, or the Teachings of Men of The Future Generations. They had a creed. It was the Ten Commandments of the Lord God of Israel, Written upon Tablets of Stone, and this Creed of God was placed Within the Ark which had been built exactly as God had directed. Their journey through the Arabian Wilderness was henceforth to be Guided by a Cloud over the Tabernacle during the day, and a blazing Pillar of Fire by night. This wonderful manifestation of the God of Israel was calculated to give that chosen people assurance that they would be safely Guided by day and Guarded by night by the great deified Being who was their God. This was the faint Dawn of *Eastern Light*, which tinged the midnight of Early Man in his effort to find the Creator, with the Auroral glow of the coming light and knowledge of the future Ages of Life when Man! having emerged from the Savagery of primitive existence into the extended area of Semi-Civilization should pass through the varied and mighty evolution of Racial, Tribal, and Communal relations into Self-Sustaining and Self-Governing Nations of thoughtful human Minds, and as the light of knowledge increased in the radius of its ever increasing glory among the dim archways of the untried Future, and illumined the unknown

and as yet unnumbered Centuries of Human Life and Experience, the earnest students of real life, and man's attempts to worship God is led by the consideration of the wonderful and positive relations of God to ancient Israel, and a careful examination of the ancient Record—to *look toward the East*—for the only solution of the great problem of the Past! the Present! and the Future! Let us glance at the page of the Historic Past. Arabia! Where captive Hebrews witnessed that great convulsion of a mighty Sea to Open the Way for the people. Where Manna fell from heaven in answer to their prayers. The Awful Mount of Sinai, where the Feet of God have stood. Arabia! The Grandest, Holiest Land of Earth—save Calvary. That land is forever Sacred to The Presence of The Lord. Leave the Mounds of America, the City of Long Ago, Step from the Temple of the Sun, in the Ruins of Yucatan. Leave the prehistoric Dead. The *Eastward* looking Forms. Pity the child of Islam, as he bows to the Muezzins Call. Weep for the innocent children living sacrifices to "Ganga." Read with the horror of wakened Sense, the cruelty of Brahma. Contemplate the Wisdom of the Teachings of Confucius. Backward! Read the Record of the Failures of humanity. Penetrate the Shadowland of Mediæval History. Rome! proud mistress of the World. Grecia! in her Glory. Egypt! Mother of the Nile. Bowing humbly to Amen-Ra. Assyria!

Whose marble Temple speaks of the God Bel. Persia! Whose wondrous past is a picture set in Gold. India! Where the very streams are red with blood of babes. China! Ancient, Cold, Suspicious, Wrapped in Solitude. Back to the first beginnings of a human Civilization. Backward through the centuries to the dawning of the light. Back to the Days of King Belshazzar. Stricken by The Lord. Back to the Persian King of might with Esther! child of God. Back to Daniel! Praying with his eyes toward Jerusalem. Back to Joshua! Led to Victory by the Angel of the Lord. Back to the Wilderness journey! with God's own chosen ones. Back to the Tabernacle! Vailed with Cloud and Fire. Back to the Ark of the Covenant! Built by God's direction. Back to the Mount of Sinai! Where Moses talked with God. Back to the light of the Burning Bush, in the desert of Midian. Back! for Three Thousand and Ninety years to the Dawn of the glorious *Eastern Light!*

The Sublime Scene in Sinai, when a Man was called to speak face to face with The God of the Universe, is beyond the power of a human pen to describe. But there is the starting point of Truth Upon that mountain; the Voice of the All-wise Spoke Beneath the cloud that overshadowed the mountain; the frail Being of Earth listened to the tones of the great God of Nature, as for the first time He Voiced his awful mandate of Obedience or Punishment.

This is the Beginning of the Sunrise of Knowledge. The long, weary Day of Civilization is being filled with Thoughts! Deeds! Achievements! and Failures! Man of the Present is apparently living in the Zenith of Civilization's Light and Glory, yet he is the Child, the Student of the Past! Journeying toward the Sunset and inevitable Night of future Oblivion! Man is conscious of a longing to Know the Living Truth! The Record Book of the Ages is the Light of the World. *Man Reads The Bible* and "*Looks toward the East!*"

CHAPTER II.

FROM THE TABERNACLE TO THE TEMPLE.

The Tabernacle with the Ark, which contained the precious Covenant and the Ten Commandments of The Lord, was the One Central Point of interest to the Children of Israel as they traveled through the wilderness on their journey to The Promised Land. The Cloud that hovered over the Tabernacle was a Sign to them that the Lord would Protect them. And, as it Raised and moved before the camp in the daily journey, the people were assured that they were being guided in their pathway by the direction of their God. The Fire that loomed above the Tabernacle at night was a Symbol of the light of the Creator that was yet to dispel the darkness of the world of human thought, and as the people journeyed on rejoicing in the possession of sure and tangible proof of the Presence of their God, by His wonderful guardianship of the Ark of the Covenant. A stronger proof was yet to be given by the Lord. As the Book of the Exodus is a Historic narrative of a company of Captives, leaving the scenes of slavery in the land of Egypt by a miraculous and very unnatural manner, so the Book of Leviticus is also a Record of the Laws of Government, and the Relig-

ious Rites and Sacrifices, which were observed from the very Beginning of the Tabernacle Service by the express command of The God of Israel. He spoke from within the Tabernacle, from the Holy Place, where The Ark of the Covenant had been deposited by Moses. Having taken possession of the Building which He had designed for this very purpose, The God of Israel directed His chosen people by His own Voice, which was heard proceeding from the Tabernacle.

And the Book of Leviticus, in the Opening Chapter, commences the plan by which God had chosen to guide his people, by saying, "The Lord called unto Moses and spake unto him, Out of the Tabernacle of the Congregation, saying! Speak unto the Children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the Lord, Ye shall bring your offering of the Cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock. If his offering be a Burnt Sacrifice of the herd, let him offer *a Male without Blemish.* He shall offer it of *his own voluntary Will* at the *Door* of the Tabernacle of the Congregation before the Lord. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him, to make atonement for him. And he shall Kill the Bullock before The Lord: and the Priests, Aaron's Sons, shall bring the Blood and sprinkle the blood around about upon the Altar that is by the Door of the Tabernacle of the Congregation!" Here is the very First Instance of Recorded

History of a Sacrifice for Atonement upon an Altar, within a Building, at the command of the Lord God of Israel. And, as all the works of the Divine Creator are Perfect in Design and Execution, The Tabernacle Sacrifice of an Unblemished Animal was a Type of the Ideal which existed in the All-Wise fore-knowledge of God, and this Ideal was yet to be Materialized, Incarnated, and Loved by even the Creature Man! who in his blind way was endeavoring to obey the Voice of his Maker in the primitive and rude type of an Animal Sacrifice for Atonement. And the carefully detailed account of the varied forms of sacrifice, which really comprises the Book of Leviticus, serve to show that the simple forms were Man's primary lessons in the course of a Universal Understanding and Worship of God. The Induction of a Priesthood, with the full duties and responsibilities which were affixed with a stern and unanswerable law of Inflexibility, shows us the solemnity of the Tabernacle Service, The Value and purity of the Atonement Sacrifice—giving us a glimpse of the Nature of the Being! by whose supreme Knowledge both Tabernacle, Priesthood, and People were Established and Supported, in the grandest passage from Darkness to Light, that ever adorned the page of History! Laws were given to Moses for the just and proper administration of exact justice to all men, whether an offender or a lawful member of a devoted tribe or family. And, as

every offense is named explicitly, and the proper method to be pursued in every case is emphatically and boldly asserted, The Book of Leviticus Stands today as an Obelisk of Law, amid the dim outlines of the first attempts of Man to reach the scale of Just and Equal Law, as existing between God and Man, in the exact equationary balance of the Creation with the Creator. And the strict Code of Morality and Justice which is displayed in the ancient Law of God is a Rock of Truth, amid the lighter and easily annulled rulings of the narrow mental suppositions of human Laws, and therefore, the conviction forces itself upon our minds, that such a perfect and exhaustive Code of Laws were never framed simply for the use of a people during the transient time of a Communal Exit from one country to another. But, on the contrary, The Very Beginning! pointed to a developed plan of a Supreme Mind! The Reversal of the law of Equilibrium at the Red Sea! Was an indisputable evidence of the limitless power of that mind. The Manna and the Quails were disposed in such a way as to prove that a Power was supporting and directing the Captives Out from the Bondage of Egypt for the noble purpose of developing them into a large and powerful Nation with a Future of Historic Life Achievement that would carry out in human lives the grand plans of the mighty Lord God of Israel for the elevation of the human family in Knowledge of the Maker.

Let us read the opening chapter of the Book of Genesis: "In the Beginning, God Created the Heaven and the Earth, and the earth was without Form, and Void—and Darkness was upon the face of the Deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters and God said: Let there be *Light!* and *there was light.*" (Gen. 1:1,2,3.) This was the Birth of Creation, told in the simple, yet majestic language of the great Record, of Geologic, of Astronomic, and Creative Truth! The Book of Genesis lights up the Creative period of the world's history. The Book of The Exodus is the continuation of the great Plan of the All-Wise God to Establish a love of Himself in the souls of the human creatures, which owed their existence to Him, from the day that Adam and Eve left Paradise, by the *Eastward Gate*, which gate was guarded by the flaming Sword of the Angel of The Lord, until the time that Abram was visited by The Lord, man had lived in a world of Spiritual Darkness. But, as the message of Hope! was spoken by the Angelic Herald of the Court of Heaven, the dark Future of the Race was pierced with a slender ray of glancing Light!

The Covenant of God with Abraham! The Reader of Genesis will find that this Promise was preserved to the Sons of Abraham! to Isaac, his Son, and Jacob, his Grand-Son! Joseph, the Son of Jacob, having been sold by his brothers into the hands of the Egyp-

tians, Rises, by virtue of Merit, to the high honor of the Chief Ruler of the Egyptian Kingdom; and at the advanced age of 110 years, the body of the great Joseph, the Son of Israel, is embalmed and coffined by the consent of the King, and his remains were entombed in the land of Egypt.

The Book of Exodus takes up the narrative, and carries the reader, with the Descendants of Joseph and his Brothers, All Children of Jacob or Israel, across the Sea and into the Arabian Wilderness. The *Tabernacle* was reared by *Moses*, the *Ark* Built by *Bezaleel* and *Aholiab*, was placed within the sacred enclosure; The *Tables* of *Stone, Written by Moses!* at the *Command* and *dictation* of *The God of Israel, were placed within the Ark.* The Cloud of the Presence of The Lord rested upon the Tabernacle, and the *Fire* that sprang into existence, at the command of God, lit the *Courts* of *that sacred Tabernacle of God, in the Wilderness of Arabia.* A band of rescued Slaves began the worship of the Lord—Not a Worship caused by fear of the Unknown! Not a Form of adoration, actuated by gross motives or in an ignorant, narrow-minded Prejudice, or because of Superstitious Fallacies, But a grand genuine Worship of the Power! which had gained ascendancy over their minds by practical demonstration of Divine Capability to overcome the seeming barriers of Natural Laws, and even to Reverse their Order, at His Supreme Will. This Worship of

a sublime Creative Agency was guided by a Code of Laws, which, upon being applied to the Physical Life, reflected the Light of Spiritual Origin—and by virtue of this just Code, which is given in full, The Student of Light is led to pursue his investigation still farther, and by tracing the wanderings of this strange and apparently isolated people, seek to find an appropriate Reason! for their being the Chosen, from among all the people of the earth, and also, if possible, to discover a Reality which shall be Identical with the Ante-Types, as recorded in the Book of Leviticus—and, in connection with this Ideal, the student finds a Command from The Lord, to offer a Sacrifice for Atonement of the Offenses of the people.

The entire collection of 27 chapters of the Book of Leviticus is a list of Laws, both Civil and Religious, which were to be strictly observed, and sternly enforced, under the penalty of the Displeasure of The Lord at the slightest infringement of the least of His commands. A Reward was promised for faithful Obedience, and a Punishment was also promised to the Disobedient. The Supreme Law Giver had caused certain laws to exist as points of guidance, in the adjustment of the affairs of their Family and Tribal Life. With Them, God alone was the Only Ruler! Their Social, Political, and Religious Existence was bounded by the one affirmation! "*Thus saith The Lord*"—*Nothing*, was to be *accepted as True, without*

This Divine Authority. And, from Moses, the leader, to the smallest Child, All Believed in The Lord God of Israel—a God! Absolute! in Power, Resolute! in Will, a Perfect Being! Their leader, Moses! chosen by The Lord, was commander of the entire company, and his word was believed, and they, together with Moses, followed the strict law which had been enacted by God himself, and put on statutory Record in Tables of solid stone.

This Law was the legal authority in all their decisions of life, and their religious services were observed in a building which had been actually designed by the Lord. "The Church in the Wilderness," In which was placed a precious Casket, overlaid with Gold, by the hand of Moses! according to the Word of The Lord, who had given him full instructions how to proceed in the great undertaking to which God had called him. This is the actual Record of The Book of Leviticus—The Book of The Law, of The Lord God of Israel. Again, "The Lord spake unto Moses, in the wilderness of Sinai in the Tabernacle of the Congregation, saying, Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, and they assembled all the congregation together, and they declared their Pedigrees after their families, by the house of their Fathers. As the Lord commanded Moses, So he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai. All they that were numbered

were Six Hundred Thousand, and Three Thousand, and Five Hundred and Fifty. But the Levites, after the tribe of their Fathers, were not numbered among them. For, The Lord had spoken unto Moses, saying, Thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi! But thou shalt appoint the Levites over the Tabernacle of Testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that belong to it. They shall Bear the Tabernacle and all the vessels thereof, and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the Tabernacle. And when the Tabernacle setteth Forward! The Levites shall take it down, and when the Tabernacle is to be Pitched, the Levites shall Set it up! And the Levites shall keep the charge of the Tabernacle of Testimony." Thus we find that The Tabernacle, with the Ark of the Covenant, was to be Kept in charge by the men of the Tribe of Levi—a Special Tribe. "And The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel. Number the children of Levi, after the house of their Fathers. And Moses numbered them according to the Word of the Lord. Those that were numbered of them were Twenty-two Thousand." One family of the Levites had charge of the Ark of the Covenant, and there was a special manner in which their work was to be performed. "And when the Camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come and his Sons, and they shall take down the *Cov-*

ering Vail, and cover the Ark of Testimony with it, and shall put thereon the covering of Badger's Skins, and shall spread over it a Cloth, Wholly of *Blue!* And shall put in the Staves thereof."

From this Beginning of the Levitical service, the entire details of the service, both of the Ark and the Tabernacle, are minutely described in the Book of Numbers! and this wonderful Record of Statistics presents a System of Order, and a thorough division of Tribal and Individual duties, that stands without a parallel in the history of the nations of the World. When in sight of The Promised Land of Canaan, beyond the Jordan River, Moses called an Assembly of the Children of Israel and said: "I must die in this Land! I must not go over Jordan. Furthermore, The Lord was angry with me for your sakes, and sware that I should not go over Jordan. But Ye shall Go Over, and possess that good land. Now, therefore, Hearken! O Israel, unto the Statutes and unto the Judgments which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land, which the Lord God of your Fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, Neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of The Lord your God which I command you. Take heed unto yourselves lest ye forget the Covenant of the Lord your God. And Moses called All Israel and said unto

them: Hear! O Israel, the Statutes and Judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep and Do them. The Lord our God made a Covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made not this Covenant with our Fathers, but with us! Even Us, who are all of us here alive this day. The Lord Talked with you face to face in the Mount, Out of the midst of the Fire, Saying: I am The Lord Thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of Bondage. Thou Shalt have None Other Gods before Me. Thou shalt not Make unto thee any Graven Image, or any Likeness of anything that is in Heaven above, or that is in the Earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth. Thou shalt not Bow Down thyself unto them, nor serve them; For I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the Third and Fourth Generation of them that hate Me, and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the Name of The Lord thy God in vain, for The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh this name in vain. Keep the Sabbath Day, to Sanctify It as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee. Six Days, thou shalt Labor and Do all thy Work; But the Seventh Day is the Sabbath of The Lord thy God; In it thou shalt not do any work, Thou, nor thy Son, nor thy Daughter, nor thy Man-

Servant, nor thy Maid-Servant, nor thine Ox, nor thine Ass, nor any of thy Cattle, nor thy Stranger that is within thy gates, that thy Man-Servant and thy Maid-Servant may have Rest! as well as thou; and Remember, that Thou wast a Servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee Out thence through a mighty hand, and by a stretched out Arm. Therefore, The Lord thy God Commanded Thee, to keep the Sabbath Day! Honor thy Father and thy Mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee, that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not Kill; Neither shalt thou Commit Adultery; Neither shalt thou Steal; Neither shalt thou Bear False Witness against thy Neighbor; Neither shalt thou Desire thy neighbor's Wife; Neither shalt thou Covet thy neighbor's House, his Field, his Man-Servant, his Maid-Servant, his Ox, or his Ass, or Anything! that is thy Neighbor's. These Words The Lord spake unto All your Assembly in the Mount, out of the midst of the Fire, of the Cloud, and of the thick Darkness, and He added No More. And *He Wrote Them in Two Tables of Stone and delivered them unto me.*"

These words were actually spoken by Moses, in the presence of the assembled thousands of Israel, and they were specially directed by him to Obey the Ten Commandments implicitly, ever remembering that

they were given by The Lord, and actually written upon the two Tables of Stone by the Finger of God! and that they had been delivered into the hand of Moses because he was the leader of the children of Israel, by the Divine Choice of God; and after rehearsing before them the wonderful manifestations of the Power of God in the interest of His Chosen People, Moses next proceeds to enter into a minute description of the Building of the Ark of the Covenant, in which the Tables of Stone were safely deposited. "At that time The Lord said unto Me, Hew thee Two Tables of Stone like unto the First, and Come up unto Me into the Mount, and make thee an Ark of Wood." There was a good Reason for the people to be well reminded of these Second Tables of Stone, "like unto the First," Because, of their disobedience of the First Commandment that God had written "Thou shalt have None Other Gods before Me." Moses told them in plain forcible language of their faithlessness: "And it came to pass at the End of Forty Days and Forty Nights, that the Lord gave me the two tables of stone, even the Tables of the Covenant; and the Lord said unto me, Arise! Get thee down quickly from hence, for thy people which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them; They have made a Molten Image; So I turned, and came down from the

Mount, and the Two Tables of the covenant were in my two hands—and I looked, and Behold! Ye had sinned against The Lord your God, and had made you a molten Calf. Ye had turned aside quickly out of the way which The Lord had commanded you; and I took the two tables and cast them out of my two hands, and Brake them before your eyes."

Moses had received the tables of stone directly from the hand of God. But when he saw the idolatry of the people, he was provoked by it, and to such an extent that Moses in anger at their sin Cast down and broke in pieces the Stone Record of the Law of God. Then, by the Will of the Infinite, Moses was directed to Hew the Two Second Tables which were "like unto" or resembling the First Ones which Moses had broken. At the command of The Lord, Moses Repeated, in the hearing of all the people, what The Lord had spoken unto him. "At that time, The Lord said unto me, Hew Thee Two Tables of Stone, like unto the first, and come up unto me into the Mount, and make thee an Ark of Wood; and I will write on the tables, the Words that were in the First Tables which Thou Brakest, and thou shalt put them in the Ark. And I made an Ark of shittim wood, and Hewed two tables of stone, like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. And *He Wrote on the tables according to the First Writing, The Ten Commandments*, which the Lord spake

unto you in the mount, and the Lord Gave Them unto Me—and I turned and came down from the mount, and *Put the Tables in the Ark, which I had Made*, and *There they Be*, as the Lord commanded me." This is the declaration of the actual Work of God in the wilderness of Sinai—and it states imperatively, that *a Written Law*, which consisted of Ten Commandments, was *Graven* upon two tables of *Hewed Stone*, by *the Finger of God*—and it stands without a parallel in the history of Man. And, as Science is coincident with The Bible, and the developments of the centuries have demonstrated beyond all doubt this incontrovertible Fact! That a Captive People were Released from the country of their enemies by a wonderful exhibition of supernatural events that seemingly discriminated between the Captives and their oppressors, And, after leading that feeble band of helpless people all through the trackless Wilderness and assuring them by remarkable phenomena of Waters, Rising above their level of specific Gravity, in order to open a roadway between their crystal Walls by which the Captives reached the land of liberty, and still by a positive partiality of the Power that caused this revulsion in Gravitation, The Army of the Egyptians found that same pathway to be a thoroughfare to certain defeat and death.

After sending the Manna, and the Quails, in response to the petitions of His chosen people after

establishing a Sentinel by Night in a Pillar of Fire, and appointing a Guide by Day, in the presence of the daily Pillar of Cloud, a Mountain was reached, which is known and located by the present Civilization as the Mountain of Sinai in the vast wilderness of Southern Arabia—and, within the cavernous recesses of this mountain, that was charged with a deadly Force, which was inimical to any living creature that should venture near its Base. Here was the place where God the Creator met and talked with Moses, the Child of the River, whose cradle was rocked by the moving waters amid the bending reeds, who had been adopted by the Daughter of Pharaoh, and, from the lowly position of the Shepherd of Midian, had been Exalted by the God of Israel—To lead His people from the land of their Captivity; to speak face to face, in the mountain of Sinai, with the Creator of the World. This is not a dim, or vague imaginary dream of the distant Past, or a Picture of the Fancy hung amid the dust and cobwebs of the decaying halls of the human imagination, But a glorious Masterpiece of Outline, Color, and Force, that, like the ancient Portraits from the immortal brush of Raphael, Titian, Rubens, or Murillo, is alive with power to thrill the Emotional, and convince the Practical, of the *Strength*, *Wisdom* and *Beauty*, of the grand design of the great *Master Artist*. But this was not all the work of preparation which Moses was divinely commissioned to perform,

for we find him saying these words: "I am an Hundred and Twenty years old this day. I can no more go out and come in; also, The Lord hath said unto Me, Thou shalt Not go over this Jordan. Now, therefore, Write ye this Song, and teach it the Children of Israel. Moses, therefore, Wrote this Song the same day and taught it the children of Israel, and it came to pass, when *Moses* had made an end of *Writing the words of this Law in a Book* until they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites which bare the Ark of the covenant, saying: *Take This Book of the Law* and *Put it in the Side of the Ark of the Covenant of The Lord your God*, that it may be there for a *Witness* against thee."

Moses, having spoken these significant words in the presence of the assembled tribes of All Israel, and after delivering a solemn charge to *Joshua*, the Son of Nun, to lead the people in the fear of God, left the plains of Moab, according to the Record, "And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah that is over against Jericho; and the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead unto Dan, and the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed, I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, But thou shalt Not go over thither. So Moses, the servant of the Lord, Died there in the land of Moab,

according to the Word of The Lord. "This is the contents of the Book of Deuteronomy—which is *The Book of The Law Given to Moses on Tables of Stone, cut by the Hand of God, Copied by Moses at God's command—Written in a Book, and that Book of the Law, Deposited in an Ark, Built by God's measurements* and under *His supervision* by *chosen Workmen*, Placed *in charge* of a Certain Family of *Levites*, who were *specially prepared* for their *duties* in the care of *the Ark* and *the Tabernacle, which also had been builded as a Resting Place for the Ark during the journey through the Wilderness.* And, of all the varied Systems of the Worship of Deity, there is but One System and One Method of Worship that is Authorized by the Creator—of the visible Universe—and the plain Record of the Beginning of the True Worship of The True God was written by the very man that received instructions from the awful voice of the Lord God of Israel—The True and Only God of the Heaven above and the Earth beneath of the vast Universe of Nature and Man.

As the Book of Genesis is the Record of the Beginning of the Physical System in Nature with One Man as the central figure of interest who talked with the Creator, amid the fresh beauty of a Newly Created Universe, So Moses, in the Book of Deuteronomy, has left the Record of *The Beginning of the Spiritual Life of the Human Race.* For as Adam emerged from the garden of Eden into an untried wilderness, So Jacob the

Father of Israel, Sojourned in the land of the Egyptians, and, as the Children of Israel were liberated and led forth, by a mighty heaven inspired Character, who received his commission from the very lips of the Almighty, Signed by the Finger of God, on enduring Tables of solid Stone, Such was the Beginning of True Worship of The One True God—*Veiled!* to the children of Israel, by the rude Types and Symbols, that are interpolated throughout the strange narrative of their journey, from the land of Egypt's Bondage to the land of Promise. And, for this reason The Story of the Creation, in the Book of Genesis; The Story of Departure from Egypt, in the Book of Exodus; The Code of Laws of Israel, in the Book of Leviticus; The Organization of the People, in the Book of Numbers, and finally, The Re-Capitulation by Moses, in the presence of all the people of Israel, of the Words of almighty God, spoken to him, amid the awful convulsions of Earth and the Thunder of Heaven witnessed in the mountain of Sinai, Of the Presentation of the Ten Commandments, Of the divinely designed Ark of the Covenant, which was to become the sacred repository of the Book of The Law of God, and be in turn deposited in a Building that was also built according to the direction of The Lord, as to Material and Measurement of The Tabernacle of God within the Camp; of the peculiar and sacred duties of the Tribe of Levi. And,

at the close of One Hundred and Twenty Years of active life, amid circumstances and environments that were simply Appalling in their Awful Reality and Terrible Nearness to the Supernatural, we find the Writer of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, calmly writing the Book of Deuteronomy—Writing a Copy of The Words of The Lord, and causing this Book of God's Law to be placed in the side of the Ark of the Covenant, and after telling the people of the power and love of The Lord, for His Obedient Children, and counselling them against any rebellion at the leadership of Deity, Moses! fully realizing that his life-work was finished, calmly resigned his position as Israel's leader, to Joshua, the Son of Nun—and the Book of Deuteronomy closes with the simple account of the Death of Moses, and the assumption of leadership by the Son of Nun, Who was charged by Moses to lead the Children of Israel across the Jordan River into the land of Canaan. *Thus the Five Books of Moses form the One Book of The Law*, and, closing with the Book of Deuteronomy, Complete the Record of the Teaching of the Israelites by the Lord God of Israel, a course of instruction that was perfected by years of travel in the wilderness, and with an assurance from the great Teacher of an ultimate entrance into the promised home of Peace and Plenty—a Home that was now within sight just over on the Other Side of Jordan, "*Toward the Sun Rising.*" And

it is the object of the Writer! *to trace the journey of this Book of The Law* from the time of its *Edition* and *Deposit in the Ark* until the *Present Day!* And in order to properly begin the historic Pilgrimage from the *Tabernacle* to The *Temple*, it is imperative that we Know the Date of this wonderful *Book of The Law*, and by a careful reference to the Chronological History of Egypt, and also that of the Contemporaneous History of the Hebrew People, we find that in the year of 1491, B. C., The Exodus was accomplished, and that exactly 40 years after the Exodus, the Hebrews had reached the Jordan River, and that while within sight of the Promised Land, Moses had written the Oriental Epic or Descriptive Song, in which all the leading events of that marvelous deliverance were carefully Chronicled by him; and a single glance at the Book of The Law, whether by means of ancient Hebrew tongue! Targum! Manuscript! or Roll; Parchment, of the Middle or Dark Ages of History, or the Authorized Version of The Holy Bible of King James Edition, is a clear demonstration of this positive Fact, That *Moses actually placed the Book of the Law in the Ark of the Covenant* in the year of *1451, B. C.*, and, in consequence of this accurate Data, we also find that the time elapsing from the Completion of the Wilderness journey and the writing of *the Book of the Law* to the time of the *Completion of the Temple of The Lord in the City of Jerusalem*, was *from 1451, B. C.*, to *1005*,

B. C., or *446 Years:* during which time *the Tabernacle* was to be *the Only Repository* of *The Ark:* and while the Ark itself was in the possession of the Hebrew People, The God of Israel would protect them, and we find by the same data that the Ark Remained with the Hebrews as long as they were obedient to the Commands of God. But, upon their refusal to Obey, Misfortune had been foretold by Moses, as a certain Result, and in order that a proper understanding of the great design of *Masonry* may be obtained and an appreciation of its *value* fully and freely enjoyed, it will be necessary that we *trace the Hebrews* from the time of the *Death of Moses* until the *Completion of The Temple in Jerusalem:* and it is the earnest desire of the writer to demonstrate this positive Fact, That by a Careful and Exhaustive Study of *the Bible*, which is *the Great Light* of Civilization, a clear, concise statement, of perfectly connected Events will prove that *Masonry differs from all earthly institutions*, in the same proportion and manner of detail, as the Worship of the Children of Israel, His Chosen Ones, differed from the rude attempt of the primitive and unlearned Savage to conciliate the Sun. *Because* as *The Lord* God of the Universe *looked upon His People*, and *formulated a plan* by which *He could improve and teach them.* So *it is true of this institution of Masonry*—that *it differs* from every organization of men in *this one* particular and peculiar *Fact: Masonry!*

Was instituted by The Lord, and was Given by the Lord God of Israel to Moses. And the succeeding events in the History of Israel will prove that *Masonry in the Ancient Craft* was the *practical method* by which *The Lord established communication* with His people, and the sacred *Tabernacle* that enclosed the *Ark*, with the *Book of The Law* hidden within its side, were *Symbols* of *Divine Guidance* and *Presence of The Lord with His People*, and *this is the teaching of The Ancient Craft of Masonry*, from the days of *Moses*, the *Chosen of God* as *The Master in Israel.* After the death of *Moses*, and the succession of *Joshua* to the leadership of Israel, *The Lord God of Israel* showed *His Presence*, by the sacred *Ark.* "And *The Lord said unto Joshua!* This Day will I begin to magnify Thee in the sight of all Israel that they may know that *as I was with Moses, So I will be with Thee!*" God had shown His terrible power to help this people and to Destroy their enemies, all the way from Egypt to the Jordan River. And now as Moses had gone the way of All the Earth, The Lord showed Joshua that He would still protect and lead the people into the land that He had promised unto their Fathers, and a command was laid upon Joshua to Test The Lord by obedience to his very Words—"And thou shalt command the Priests, that bear *the Ark of the Covenant*, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan." Joshua was an earnest man;

he was willing to test the Lord by a *perfect Obedience to His Will.* "And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, Come hither! and *hear the Words of the Lord your God. Hereby! ye shall know* that the *living God is among you.* Behold, the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of All the Earth, Passeth Over before you into Jordan. And it shall come to pass, as soon as the *soles of the feet* of the Priests that bear the Ark of the Lord, The Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above, and they shall stand upon a heap. And it came to pass, as they that bare the Ark were come unto Jordan and *the feet* of the Priests that bare the Ark *were dipped* in the brim of the water, that the waters which came down from above, Stood, and Rose Up! upon a Heap! very far from the City Adam, that is beside Zaretan. And those that came down toward the Sea, of the plain, even the Salt sea, failed, and were cut off, and the people passed over." Thus we find a Duplicate, of the Red Sea passage, through the Jordan! The passage of the Red Sea was effected by the Act of Moses, in Stretching Out his hand over the sea, at the word of God, and the passage of the Jordan River was effected by the Obedience of Joshua and the Priests to the Word which was so plainly spoken to them, instead of *a hand* stretched out *over* the water, *the feet* were to be *immersed within* its

waves, and this passage becomes more wonderful when we remember that The Jordan River was a rushing stream, whose rapid descent over steep grades has earned its name, Yardan ("the Swift"), which name, being translated into the English Language, is rendered Jordan! And it is a fact, that the presence of the Ark of the Covenant was sufficient to arrest the surging torrent of that mighty stream of descending waters, according to the Scripture record. "And the Priests that bare the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord Stood firm *on Dry Ground* in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan." Joshua was from that time regarded as a divinely appointed leader as Moses had heretofore been regarded, and the Lord kept the promise He had made to Joshua, for we read that "On that Day, the Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they feared him as they feared Moses, all the days of his life. And the Lord spake unto Joshua, saying, Command the Priests that bear the Ark of the Testimony, that they come up out of Jordan. Joshua therefore commanded the Priests, saying, Come ye up out of Jordan! And it came to pass when the Priests that bare the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the soles of the Priests' feet were lifted up into the dry land, that the waters of Jordan

Returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before."

This description, in the Book of Joshua, of the stupendous scene of a mighty River, suddenly arrested, and again as suddenly allowed to resume its normal condition, is without a counterpart in the history of Nature. Rivers have been known to suddenly precipitate their waters into a subterranean crevasse, and after flowing for a time in the hidden chasm of the Earth, to again Re-emerge into the light of day, and find a level upon a surface bed. But never has a River of its own Volition piled its swiftly flowing waters, "in a heap," and remain in that abnormal state in passiveness—until that Morning! when the Ark of the Covenant appeared upon the Brink of the Jordan, borne in the hands of those *divinely appointed* Levites, whose sacred duty was to attend to the Ark and the Tabernacle.

This wonderful event was consummated in the presence of the thousands of Israel, and is a Recorded Fact! in the annals of Hebrew History. And as the Book of Joshua plainly declares the wondrous Power of God by the presence of the Ark, So All the Books from the Book of Joshua, to the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel, are filled with Awe-inspiring *circumstances* that only became possible because of *the Presence of God in the visible Ark of His own Workmanship!* The first of these wonderful manifestations of su-

preme power in the presence of the Ark, after passing through Jordan, was at the city of Jericho! When as the Priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant passed for the *seventh* time around the City Walls, at the Voice of Joshua! The Walls of solid masonry fell before the fearful power that was concealed within the Ark of God. During the times that are recorded in the Book of the Judges! There is but little mention of the Ark of the Covenant. But in the Book of Samuel, the Prophet of Israel, There is an account in the 3d chapter, of a child, who ministered to a Priest by the name of Eli. And the reader is further informed that "*The House of the Lord was at Shiloh*, and *the Ark of God was there.*" And we are also told in the Fourth chapter (I. Sam. 4) of the First Book of Samuel, that when the Israelites were threatened with defeat at the hands of the Philistines, they sent to Shiloh, to bring the Ark of the Covenant to the place of the Battle. "So the people *sent to Shiloh*, that they might *Bring from thence the Ark of the Covenant* of The Lord of Hosts. And when the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord came into the camp, All Israel shouted with a great Shout! And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great Shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that The Ark of The Lord was come into the camp. And the Philistines were afraid, for *they* said *God is Come into the Camp.* And they said,

Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore. And the Philistines fought and Israel was smitten and they fled every man into his tent and there was a very great slaughter, for there fell of Israel Thirty Thousand footmen, and *the Ark of God was taken.* And the Philistines took the Ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. When the Philistines took the Ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon; and when they of Ashdod arose, early on the morrow, Behold! Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the Ark of the Lord. And they took Dagon and set him in his place again, and when they arose early on the morrow morning, Behold! Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground, before the Ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the Palms of his hands, were cut off. And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, the Ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us, for his hand is sore upon us and upon Dagon our god. They sent therefore and gathered all the Lords of the Philistines unto them and said: What shall we do with the Ark of the God of Israel? And they answered: Let the Ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath! And they carried the Ark of the God of Israel about thither. And it was so that after they had carried it about, The hand of The Lord was against the City with a very great destruction. Therefore, they sent the Ark

of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the Ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying: They have brought about the Ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people. So they sent and gathered all the lords of the Philistines and said: Send away the Ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to *his own place:* that it slay us not and our people, for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the City. The hand of God was very heavy there, and the Ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines *Seven Months.* And the Philistines called for the Priests, and the Diviners, saying: What shall we do to the Ark of the Lord? Tell us! Wherewith we shall send it to his place. And they said: If ye send away the Ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty. Now, therefore, Make a New Cart, and take Two Milch Kine, *on which there hath come No Yoke,* and *Tie* the Kine to the Cart and bring their calves home from them, and take the Ark of the Lord and lay it upon the Cart, and put the jewels of Gold which ye return Him for a Trespass Offering in a Coffer by the side thereof and Send it away! that it may go; and see! If it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then He hath done us this great evil. And the men did so, and took two milch kine and tied them to the Cart, and shut up their Calves at home; and they laid the Ark of the Lord upon the Cart, and the Coffer with the Mice of

Gold, and the Kine *Took the Straight Way* to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and *turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.* And the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the Border of Bethshemesh, and they of Bethshemesh were reaping their Wheat Harvest in the Valley. And they lifted up their eyes and saw the Ark, and rejoiced to see it; and the Cart came into the field of Joshua, a Beth-Shemite, and stood there where there was *a great Stone!* And they clave the Wood of the Cart, and Offered the Kine, a Burnt Offering unto the Lord. And the Levites took down the Ark of the Lord and the Coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone, and the men of Bethshemesh Offered Burnt Offerings and Sacrificed Sacrifices the same day unto the Lord. And when the Five Lords of the Philistines had seen it they returned to Ekron the same day; and He Smote the men of Bethshemesh because they had looked into the Ark of the Lord; and they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath-Jearim, saying: The Philistines have brought again the Ark of the Lord; Come ye down and fetch it to you. And the men of Kirjath-Jearim came and fetched up the Ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of *Abinadab in the Hill*, and sanctified Eleazar, his Son, to keep the Ark of the Lord. And it came to pass, *while the Ark abode in Kirjath-Jearim*

that the time was long, for *it was Twenty Years.*"

And from this time until the Reign of *David* in the year 1042 B. C., the Ark of God remained in the house of *Abinadab* in Kirjath-Jearim, according to the ancient record of the First and Second Books of Samuel the Prophet of Israel. But, in this year of the Reign of David (1042 B. C.), David seems to have been impressed with a desire to bring the Ark of God from Kirjath-Jearim to Jerusalem the Castle of Zion and The City of David. For "David gathered together all the chosen men of Israel—Thirty Thousand. And David arose and went with all the people that were with him, from Baale of Judah (Kirjath-Jearim) to bring up from thence the Ark of God. And they set the Ark of God upon a New Cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio the Sons of Abinadab drove the new Cart, and when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzza put forth his hand to the Ark of God, and Took Hold of it, for the Oxen shook it. And God smote him there for his error, and there he died by the Ark of God; and David was afraid of the Lord that day, and said, How shall the Ark of the Lord come to me?

So David would not remove the Ark of the Lord unto him in the City of David. But David carried it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite! and *the Ark of the Lord continued in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite Three Months*, and the Lord blessed Obed-

Edom and all his household. And it was told King David saying, The Lord hath blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that pertaineth unto him because of the Ark of God. So David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom, into the City of David with gladness. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the Trumpet. And *they brought in the Ark of the Lord, and set it in His Place, in the midst of the Tabernacle, that David had Pitched for it.* And David Offered Burnt Offerings and Peace Offerings before the Lord. And it came to pass, when the King sat in his house, and the Lord had given him rest round about from all his enemies that *the King said to Nathan the Prophet, See Now!* I dwell in an house of *Cedar.* But *the Ark of God dwelleth within Curtains.*" Samuel tells us that *Hiram the King of Tyre*, had sent *messengers* to *David*, and *Cedar Trees*, and *Carpenters*, and *Masons*, "and *they Built David an House.*" (II. Sam. 5.)

David had been a Victorious King of Israel, from the time that the Philistine Giant had fallen before the shepherd boy, and the maids of Israel sang the praises of his powers—"Saul hath slain his thousands; David! his Tens of Thousands"—a Song that roused the jealous spirit of murder in the dark soul of King Saul, until *Hiram* the King of Tyre *had presented him* with the royal gift of *a Palace of Cedar.* And as

David was sitting in this luxurious home, he remembered that *the Ark of God*, containing *the Law of Israel*, was yet in *a Temporary Resting place*. He remembered that *the Curtains of a Tabernacle* were *the only covering* of this precious *Charter of Israel's God*. And in accordance with a Custom among *all Eastern people*, *The King* conferred with *the Prophet*, as to the condition of the Ark, that was of such a priceless value to the Hebrew People, and to him who was their leader, champion, and King! And the details and result of that interview between the King of Israel and the Prophet of God is contained *only in the Writings of Scripture*. "And it came to pass that night that the Word of the Lord came unto Nathan the prophet, saying Go and tell my servant David, *Thus Saith The Lord*, Whereas, I have not dwelt in any house, since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, But *have walked in a Tent*, and *in a Tabernacle*, Now therefore! So shalt thou say, Unto my servant David! *I will appoint a place for My People Israel*, and will *Plant Them!* that they may *dwell* in *a place of their own:* and when thy days be *fulfilled*, and thou shalt sleep with thy Fathers, *I will set up thy seed* after thee, and *I will establish his Kingdom. He shall build an House for my name*, and *I will stablish* the throne of his Kingdom *forever*. According to all these Words, *So did Nathan speak unto David.*"

This plain Record is still kept in the two Books of

Samuel the Prophet of Israel, and by a careful study of the Ancient Chronicles, or the History of the Kings, we find the result of Nathan's prophecy to the King in regard to the Building of a House of Rest for the Ark of the Covenant, to be fully supported and verified by the History that followed. In the closing chapters of the First Book of Chronicles, there is a full description of the impression that was made upon the mind of King David by the Word of the Lord from the lips of Nathan the prophet; and the manner of David's resignation, of his plan to build a house for the Lord, and his acceptance of God's Choice in the person of David's Son, are evidences of a Soul that amid the dark thoughts and evil deeds of a highly tense and passionate nature, still intended to show a desire to please God by doing reverence to His Holy Law in the Building of a Temple for The Ark of The Lord. David, upon realizing that God had already Chosen his Builder, Acknowledged the justice of God's decree in regard to himself; and the actual Words of David, in the 28th and 29th Chapters of the First Chronicles, Explain his intention to build a house of rest for the Ark, and also of God's disposal of that intention by His choice of the Son of David. "And David assembled all the Princes of Israel unto Jerusalem. Then David the King stood up upon his feet and said: Hear Me, My Brethren and My People. As for me I had in mine heart to build an house

of rest for the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, and had made ready for the Building. But *God said unto me, Thou shalt not* build an house for my name, *Because* Thou hast been a man of *War*, and hast *shed Blood.* And *He said unto me: Solomon! thy Son, He Shall Build My House and My Courts.*" And after telling Solomon of the importance of the great work that God had chosen him to perform, David proceeded to advise him from his own past experience with the God of Israel; and we find him an old man looking at the splendid youth before him, glowing with the beauty of his Mother and the Stern Power of his royal Sire. And thus he speaks with the voice of Age, Wisdom, and Experience, to the Son that God has chosen to lead Israel in the future: "And Thou! Solomon my Son, Know thou the God of thy Father and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing Mind; for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts. If thou seek Him he will be found of thee, But if thou forsake Him He will cast thee off forever. Take heed now, for *the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the Sanctuary.* Be Strong! and Do it." Thus did the wise-hearted King instruct the youthful *Prince of Israel* by showing him the necessity of a careful attention to the commands of the great God of Israel. And then, realizing the fact of the *practical help* which he could supply to Solomon, *David* immediately *transferred all*

the Patterns for the *work*, together with *all the material* which He had made ready according to *the record of Scripture*. "Then *David gave Solomon*, his Son, *The Pattern of the Porch*, and of *the Houses* thereof, and of the *Treasuries* thereof, and of the *Upper Chambers* thereof, and of the *Inner Parlours* thereof, and of the *place* of the *Mercy Seat*, and the *Pattern* of *All that he had by The Spirit*, of the *Courts* of the house of the Lord, and of *all the Chambers* round about, of the *Treasuries* of the house of God, and of the *Treasuries* of the *Dedicated things:* Also! for the *courses* of the *Priests* and the *Levites*, and for *all the work of The Service of The House of the Lord*, and for *all the Vessels of Service* in the house of The Lord. He gave of *Gold* by *weight*, for things of *Gold*, for *all instruments* of all manner of service; *Silver also*, for *all instruments of silver* by *Weight*—for all instruments of every kind of Service, even the *weight* for the *Candle Sticks* of gold, and for their *Lamps* of gold, and for the *Candle Sticks* of silver, by *weight* both for the *Candle Stick*, and also for the *Lamps* thereof—and by weight he gave *gold* for the *Tables of Shew Bread* for every table, and likewise silver for the *Tables of Silver*; Also! *pure gold* for the *Flesh Hooks*, and the *Bowls*, and the *Cups*; and for the *Golden Basins* he gave gold by weight for every basin; likewise, silver by weight for every *Basin of Silver:* and, for the *Altar of Incense refined gold by weight:* and gold for the *Pattern of the Chariot of the Cherubims* that

spread out their *Wings* and *Covered the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. All this*, said David, *the Lord made me understand in writing By His Hand upon me, even all the works of this Pattern.*

And David said to Solomon his son, Be Strong and of Good Courage, and Do it. Fear Not! nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, even My God, will be with thee. He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of The House of The Lord. Furthermore! David the King said unto all the Congregation, Solomon my Son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great, for *The Palace is Not for Man, But for the Lord God.* Now I have *prepared* with all my might *for the House of My God* the *Gold* for things to be made of gold, and the *Silver* for things of silver, the *Brass* for things of brass, the *Iron* for things of iron, and *Wood* for things of wood; *Onyx Stones*, and stones to be *Set: Glistening Stones*, and of divers *Colours*, and all manner of *Precious Stones*, and *Marble stones in abundance.* Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of Gold and Silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy House, even Three Thousand Talents of Gold, of the Gold of Ophir, and Seven Thousand Talents of Refined Silver, to overlay the Walls of the house withal; the gold for

things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of Artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord? Then the chief of the Fathers and Princes of the Tribes of Israel, and the Captains of thousands and of Hundreds, with the Rulers of the King's work, Offered Willingly, and gave for the service of the house of God, of Gold Five Thousand Talents and Ten Thousand Drams, and of Silver! Ten Thousand Talents, and of Brass Eighteen Thousand Talents, and One Hundred Thousand Talents of Iron. And they with whom Precious Stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the Lord, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite." And the mind is fairly overwhelmed by the aggregation of Wealth that was given by willing hands for the single purpose of the erection of a House for the Ark of the Covenant of the God of Israel. The Presentation of the material for the house of God was accompanied by a prayer to the God of Israel, uttered by King David and assented to by all the thousands of Israel. "Wherefore David Blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed Be Thou, Lord God of Israel Our Father, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine: Thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and

thou art exalted as head over all, for we are strangers before thee, and *sojourners*, as were all our fathers: Our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding. O Lord our God! All this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thy Holy Name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own. O Lord! God of Abraham! Isaac! and of Israel! Our Fathers! Keep this forever in the *imagination* of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and *prepare their heart* unto Thee; and give unto Solomon my Son a perfect heart, to keep thy Commandments, thy Testimonies, and thy Statutes, and to do all these things! and to Build the Palace, for the which I have made provision. And David said to all the Congregation, Now Bless the Lord your God. And all the congregation Blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the Lord. And offered burnt offerings unto the Lord, on the morrow after that day, even a Thousand Bullocks, a Thousand Rams, and a Thousand Lambs, with their Drink offerings, and Sacrifices in abundance for All Israel: and did eat and drink before the Lord on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David King the second time, and anointed him unto the Lord to be Chief Governor, and Zadok to be Priest. Then Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord as King instead of David his father, and prospered; and All Israel obeyed him. And the Lord magnified

Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel."

This is the glorious and truthful narrative of the actual preparation of David to build the house of God, which intention was set aside by the Lord in favor of Solomon his son. The first act of Solomon, after being fully installed in his glorious position of unlimited wealth and power, was to assemble the entire congregation of Israel at Gibeon. We are told, in the first chapter of the Second Book of the Chronicles, that "*There! was the Tabernacle which Moses, the servant of God, had made in the wilderness!*" here was the sacred *Tent* made by Moses, and over whose folded curtains the pillar of fire had hovered for many years during the wilderness journey. It was a fitting place for the great knight to visit, at the beginning of his reign, for *the pattern of the house of God was modelled from this ancient Tabernacle of Moses.* The Ark of God was not in the Tabernacle, for David had built a temporary restingplace for it in the City of Jerusalem. But Solomon saw *the Brazen Altar* that *Bezaleel had made:* for thus reads the Record, "And Solomon and all the congregation sought unto it, and Solomon went up thither to the Brazen Altar before the Lord, and offered a Thousand Burnt Offerings upon it." *The Student of Masonry* will not fail to observe *the rigid ceremonial* practices, which were all in accord with

the commands of the Lord God of Israel, and that upon every observance of these sacrifices *there was a demonstration of the Divine Power* in favor of the person making the offering. It was thus with Solomon, for "In that Night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask What I shall give thee. And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O Lord God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me King over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now *Wisdom and Knowledge*, that I may go out and come in before this people. And *God said to Solomon*, Because this was in *thine heart*, and thou hast not asked Riches, Wealth, or Honour, nor the Life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked Long Life; But hast asked *Wisdom and Knowledge* for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee King: *Wisdom and Knowledge is granted unto thee*; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the Kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like. Then Solomon came from his journey to the high place that was at Gibeon to Jerusalem. *And Solomon determined to Build a House for the Name of the Lord.*"

This is the *record* of the *result* of the *journey through the Wilderness*. The *promised land* of Canaan had been

safely reached, under the leadership of *Joshua*, after the death of *Moses*, in the land of *Moab*. *The Ark of the Covenant* had never failed to bring success to the men of Israel, and defeat to their enemies even in the house of the Philistine god Dagon, and its capture had simply brought deadly destruction upon the Cities of its Captors. *Guided* by the mysterious but mighty *power of Divine Providence, The Ark of the Covenant* had *reached the City of Jerusalem*, and *was at Rest*, amid the people of *Israel*. The Army of "Forty Thousand fighting Men," that crossed the Jordan River with Joshua, had grown into a great Nation of *God Fearing People*, who had *built a Kingdom*, which for *wealth* and *power* has *never since been equalled* in the history of the Nations of Earth. They had triumphed over all their foes by the prowess of their Shepherd King, The great David, who had met the Philistine Giant, single handed, and, with the shepherd's sling, had thrown "the smooth stone from the Brook," that ended the life of Goliath! the champion of Philistia. Well might the dark eyed Hebrew maidens blend the tones of Harp and Voice, "*Saul hath slain his thousands, David his Tens of thousands.*" David had led the soldiers of Israel through Battle Darkness into Victory's Light. And now, Recognizing the fact that God had supported David his Father, and that a *personal promise* had been *given unto himself* from *the Lord God of Israel*, Solomon determined to build an house

for the Name of the Lord. This is the authentic journal of the travels of *the Ark of the Covenant, from the day* that *Moses* received *God's orders to build it*, by *His special measurements*, until the day that *Solomon* returned from *The Tabernacle of the Wilderness* at Gibeon to the City of David *at Jerusalem*. And as *Solomon* realized the *gift of Wisdom* and *knowledge* with which God had endowed him, in direct answer to the *real desire* of his *honest heart, Solomon, the Wise!* determined that as the God of Israel had given him a Kingdom of superiority to all other Kingdoms of the world, *He* as *its King!* by the divine *appointment* of *the Almighty*, would build a *Temple! in His Name* that should far exceed any earthly structure in the *Wisdom* which was required in its *contrivance*, the *Strength* needed in its *support*, and the *Beauty* with which its *adornment* would be crowned as a magnificent and *Perfect* Building. The *Plan* of *this Building*, like *the Plan of the Tabernacle*, was to be laid out by *the hand* of *The God of Israel*. The *material* which had been "*Made Ready*" by King David, was to be *fashioned* and *adorned* by the *skilled workmen* of the Kingdom of Israel. As *Solomon* determined to build *The Temple of God*, he was all unconsciously *combining all the previous efforts* of the human race *to find* and *to worship* in an *acceptable manner The Only True God*. The magnificent enterprise of *King Solomon* was well *supported* by the wonderful *strength* of the past history of the Hebrew people.

God had led them, "Out of Egypt"—out of Egypt! The very name of Egypt suggests at once the great halls of Karnac! temple of the Sun. The Needles! that were standing as Obelisk Sentinels for a Thousand years, before Cleopatra! saw the light of Egypt's Sunshine. Egypt, with her long list of ruined Cities, her Ancient Pyramids guarded by the solitary Lion-shaped Figure, crowned by the Face of Woman: Isis and Osiris had long been hurled from their thrones of superstitious devotion, and the Sea, the Red Sea! that had been crimsoned by the flowing blood of many a captive, loaded with Egyptian chains, had been literally "Opened Up!" By "The Strong Wind Blowing *from the East.*" "Jehovah has triumphed, His people are free", so sang *Miriam*, and the triumph was complete. An Untried country, filled with hostile inhabitants, was the scene of their weary pilgrimage for many years, But God was with them, the *Wilderness Tabernacle* had been *Erected to God*, the *Ark of the Covenant* had been *safely preserved. Moses had written the Book of the Law, and had put it in the side of the Ark.* Many years had passed over the Kingdom of the Children of Israel, But God had heard their prayers and had finally answered them completely. *Abraham's Prayers* were *answered*, in *possession of Canaan Isaac's Prayers* were *answered*, in the *national prosperity Jacob's Prayer at Bethel* was *answered!* "*Blessed above all People.*"

David's Prayer for *Solomon* was *now about to be answered* in the glorious *design* of his wonderful *Son* to *Build an House* for the *Name* of *The Lord God of Israel.* The time had come at last, after ages of *spiritual darkness* and superstitious ignorance; After Centuries of Oppression; after millions of human lives had been sacrificed, in the vain attempt to mollify the anger of the superstitious deities of Earth and Skies; after the dread of the unknown future that caused the "Altar in Athens" to be inscribed by heathen hand, and read by the Master Mind of Paul "to the Unknown God" *Solomon!* the greatest monarch that ever wielded an earthly sceptre, *Resolved!* to *Build a Temple!* to the *grandest* and *most powerful Being* that ever deigned to *hold converse* with *mortal Man:* a Being! who possessed such power that the solid Earth quaked and trembled at His touch! and yet, a Being! that "Like as a Father pitieth his children, So The Lord pitieth them that fear Him." *This* was the *God of Abraham!* the *God of Isaac!* and the *God of Israel!* And it was in *obedience* to the *Command of the God of Israel!* that *the Tabernacle* was *Built by Moses!* The *Ark of the Covenant* was *Built by Bezaleel* and *Aholiab.* The Material for the Temple of the Lord God of Israel was collected and given by David, King of Israel, and his loyal people; and it was this same Deity that heard and answered the prayer of Solomon for wisdom and knowledge, while sacrificing at Gibeon "*in the high place*;" and it

was *this True and Only God* that *witnessed* and *sanctioned* the *determination* of the *wise Solomon* to *Build a House* for the Name of *The Lord God of Israel.* This is the Historic *Record* of the journey of the Children of *Israel*, from the Land of *Egypt* to the *Tabernacle* in the *Wilderness*, and *from* the Tabernacle in the Wilderness *to the Temple in Jerusalem!* From the *Type* of the *Tent* of the *Traveler toward the East!* to the *Reality* of *The Temple of The Lord God of Israel.*

CHAPTER III.

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE.

King Solomon, having determined to build the Temple, began the work immediately. The 2nd Book of Chronicles bears this record, "And *Solomon told out Three Score and Ten Thousand Men* to *Bear Burdens*, and *Four Score Thousand* to *Hew in the Mountain*, and *Three Thousand and Six Hundred to Oversee them.*" *Seventy Thousand Burden Bearers* were appointed to *labor* upon the *ground floor* of The Temple, and in addition, *Eighty Thousand Hewers* were *sent* to the *Mountain*, and all these workmen were *superintended* by a corps of *Three Thousand, Six Hundred Overseers*, workmen who were *masters* of the *building Art.* The *general labor* upon the *Temple* was thoroughly *Classified*, and the *workmen* were *disposed of* in accordance with their *merit* and *ability to perform* their *labor* with *patience*, and a proper *understanding* of their *positions.* Those who were *first to enter* upon the duties of *a Burden Bearer* were *taught* the *method* of *approach* and *entrance* to the great Temple of God. The *place* of their labor was the *ground floor* of the house, and they were *taught* to *obey the orders* of the *Overseers*, and *carried the materials* of the building *from point to point about the Temple*, as the *Overseers directed.* Their working days were divided

into regular hours, consisting of *three sections* of Eight Hours each. They were expected to *labor* for *Eight hours* in the *Temple Work*, under the *supervision* of the *Overseers*, and *from labor* they were *called to refreshment*, which also consisted of the time of *Eight Hours*. During this time the workman of the Temple was expected to conduct himself with the strictest *prudence*, as became a workman employed in such a *Noble* and *glorious* enterprise, and having been *found worthy* of a position *among the Burden Bearers* and *sharing* with them the *labor and refreshment hours*, he yet had a remaining *Eight Hours for Sleep*, and thus to afford an opportunity for tired nature to recuperate the flagging energies, and to rest the brain of the workman for the coming days in which, by the careful *development* of the *latent powers*, under the *competent instruction* of the *Temple Officers*, he expected to *advance* from the humble position of *a Burden Bearer* into *a higher grade of Workmanship;* and possibly, by *a close application* to the grand *principles taught in the Temple*, and, having been *a faithful laborer*, in a very *humble* vocation, he expected to gain the *respect* of his *fellow laborers*, and the *commendation* of the *Overseers*, to such a *degree* as to *merit an advancement* to the *more skilled* branches of *Temple workmanship*. Of *this class* of workmen, there were *Seventy Thousand* that *entered* the Temple *as Burden Bearers*, and a careful study of the *nature* of the labor required of them will

convince the inquirer of one certain fact. Which is this, That if such *a strict Standard of Principle* and *Labor* was required of *the Burden Bearer* of *the Temple workmen*, It is also Certain that *the workmen* of the *advanced* grades of labor were *proportionately skilled* in the practice of *the higher duties* of a more *advanced* development of mind and heart. Solomon had *first* Told Out the *Seventy Thousand Burden Bearers*, and *next* he appointed *Eighty Thousand Hewers* in the mountain. *A Hewer* was a man with a powerful arm and a trained eye—he was to enter the forests of *the Cedars of Lebanon*, and after ascertaining the *perpendicularity* of the *great Cedars*, he "Laid the Axe at the root of the trees," and, as the mighty form of *forest strength and beauty* swayed and trembled beneath the blows of the *Working Tool* of *the skilled Hewer*, its sturdy companions of the deep forest bend their noble heads, crowned with the heavy foliage of Centuries of natural growth, and as the tree *selected* for *the Temple Building* totters forward from its companions of many years, and, pausing a moment in a silent farewell to forest friends, Outward! Downward! swiftly gathering force by its own momentum, *obstructed*, for an instant of *suspense* by the waving, moving sea of Tree tops, *Then!* amid the twitter of startled Birds, and the Brushing of the upper leaves, the *final* descent begins; as Rushing! Bending! Twisting! Tearing! Breaking! Crashing! *Down, down, down*, Until, with a Roar

like Thunder! The mighty giant of the Lebanon Forest *lies prone* upon the moss-grown sward beneath its mighty length, and the *first Cedar of Lebanon* has yielded its living powers to *Man*. And as the *plumb* is now useless, having performed its special duty in finding the given line of the *perpendicular of the living tree*, the *Hewer!* with the *level* and *square* proceeds to adjust the *horizontal* lines *regulated* by the *angle* of the *measurement of the Overseer*.

This was the labor of *the Hewer! in the mountain of Lebanon*, and, as from the very fact of his preferment, it was desirable that he should be *a skilled Artisan*, accustomed to the *use* of the *working tools of the Hewer*, by *constant* and *careful practice* in *each* adjustment of *their service* as the department of labor naturally required, and from the very nature of an apt mind while employed in actual labor, to *apply* the great *principles* of *Virtue*, *by which principle* every human life *should* be *squared* in *all* its varied relations with *other lives*. The *principle* of *uprightness* was also taught, *because* of the fact that *as the true* line of *perpendicularity* could be found *only* by the *use of the Plumb*. So the *true* line of upright *honesty* could *only* be *kept in sight* by a careful *surveillance* with *the plumbline of Reason:* and he was taught, that as the *Cedar* had been *removed* from its *perpendicular* position and *lowered* to an inanimate *level* to be *hewed* into a *form* according to the *angle of a square*, which was to be *subdivided* by the *points of a*

Compass. So should the *workman* in the *human hive* of labor be *industrious* and *careful in department* while *laboring* with *the working tools* of daily life experience. *Like the Cedar, he stands* among his fellow-men; *The Scythe of Time removes him* from the location of a life-time; *like the Cedar of Lebanon,* Man *bows* the kingly Head; *the Form sways* in response to *the blow delivered at the seat of life!* He bids *farewell to life* and its visionary fancies; *the dreams of youth,* like the frightened *Birds,* flit across the sky of *memory,* and, as *the tottering Cedar* seemingly *pauses* for an instant before beginning the swift and sure *descent to earth,* So Man! in the vigor of *physical life* and *mental intelligence, pauses* in the midst of *active work* and *waits!* while the *heavy blows of adverse circumstances* fall heavily upon *the heart,* takes silent, deliberate *leave* of those that still remain as friends, and, as the *Cedar* in descending brushes its top against its nearest companions, So Man! realizing that "*the silver cord is loosed.*" for the last time extends a hand to those who have been *fellow-travelers* in the journey of life, Looks! for the last time into eyes that may have been loving! selfish! critical! or indifferent! and, with *Bowed Head* and *lifeless heart,* Man begins his decline, and falls with ever-increasing swiftness of velocity until, amid the sneers of critics, praise of friends, sobs and tears of interested relatives, *silent love,* and awful grief of *real hearts,* Man lies upon *the level* of the breast of his real

mother-*Earth!* "*For Dust thou Art, and unto Dust shalt thou return.*" Time! is *the Hewer* of life and character; Time! with the *Scythe of Death*, lays us all upon *a common level.* "*The days of our years are Three Score years and Ten.*" This is the *level of Time.* "Thus He showed me, and Behold! the Lord stood upon a wall, made by *a plumbline*, and with *a plumbline* in his hand—Behold! I will set *a plumbline* in the midst of my people Israel; I will not again pass by them any more."

Thus, *the Hewer* in the mountain *was taught* the great lesson of *real life*—For he was taught that *we are all travelers* upon the *level of Time* toward an unknown and mysterious country. But while the skilled *Hewers* were thus taught to *philosophize* and to evolve the principles of the *Ethical* from the realities of the *Practical*, and *thereby* become enabled to *increase* their *knowledge* and *capabilities* with a *just* and *proper circumscription* of *all* the *follies* of life, there yet remained *a class* of Temple Workmen that were far in advance of even the learning and experience of *the Hewers* of the mountain. *These* men *were the Overseers!* King Solomon had *specially instructed Three Thousand* and *Six Hundred men* to *oversee* the workmen *in the Temple* and the *mountain*, and they were *well* qualified for the position which they occupied by *both* Theoretical and Practical *Experience.* They understood the *duty* of *every* man *in his* station, and *if* that duty was *neglected*

or *forgotten* by *any* of the workers, the *Overseer* was expected to *notice all* neglect. *If*, from any cause, there was the *slightest trace* of dissatisfaction or *lack* of harmony in *any* department of *Temple Work* the *Overseer* was to *examine* it, find out the *facts* and *remove the cause* of discord *because* of the ruling of *King Solomon the Master Builder* of the Temple. By *his* orders. *The Temple* was to be *built in perfect harmony* with all the rules of *Operative Masonry* in Architecture, and in the *same* grand Order was an imperative *injunction* to *every* worker in the employ of the King, regardless of his grade or abilities to attend strictly to his own work and to a just and proper discharge of his duty, which was to be conducted in perfect *harmony* with all of the rest of the workmen employed upon or about The Temple of God. *Harmony* was the real principle of the Temple edifice. Harmony of measurement produced perfect form. Harmony of color resulted in a perfectly blended whole. From the *cornerstone* of the Foundation to the *capstone* of the structure, *Harmony of construction* was the *one grand rule.* This was necessitated because of the *Architectural* and *Masonic Perfection* of *the divine Plan!* which had been given by the God of Israel. And it was for *this* reason that the divinely appointed work of God should be completed in perfect peace that the workmen were *counselled* to work in *harmonious unison*, and in order that this happy condition *should ever pre-*

vail in the ranks of the workmen the *Overseers* were placed at certain *stations* to watch the operation and *issue instructions* to the men who labored under their supervision. And as the Earth is lighted, and, in a measure, controlled by the celestial bodies above its surface. So in the same manner the *Burden Bearers* in the Temple, the *Hewers* in the Mountain and the Quarries, and the *Overseers* of all these workmen were controlled by the *law* of perfect harmony.

The *Overseers* were *responsible* for any *breach* of harmony *during* the hours of *labor*, and for *laxity of morals* when *released* from actual work *during* the time of recreation, and *these Overseers* were *specially selected* by the *wisdom of King Solomon*, *because* of their ability to *Control*, to *Instruct*, to *Advise*, and to *act as Judges* in the case of *trouble* or *distress among the workmen*. They were *men* of *strong mind*, *firm judgment*, and *inflexible determination* under the administration of King Solomon, Gifted by the Lord, with a fund of *Wisdom* from its fountain head, the *Stations could not* have been properly *filled*, had the *incumbents* been men of a *low standard* of *mental*, *moral*, and *physical* excellence. And thus Solomon the *Wise!* "Told Out" the number of properly *qualified men* that should assist in the gigantic enterprise of building a structure which was destined to be the *Master* piece of all Architecture for all time to come! A specimen of Architectural perfection which should inseparably

connect the *Wisdom* of the God of Israel with the *Genius* of Solomon, and the details of this magnificent Temple, which as yet had existence in the mind of Solomon alone, would be incomplete should we forget the *friendship* of Hiram, the King of Tyre, for David. *Hiram* "Had ever been a lover of David," and *Solomon* was enabled to show his *Wisdom* and knowledge of human nature in a *practical* manner, for in the very Beginning of the Temple design he remembered the *friendship* which had existed between *Hiram* and David. The great King of Tyre had given abundant proof of his friendship for David in the act of princely kindness whereby he sent *Carpenters* and *Masons* and *Cedar* Trees to build a palace home for the man that was dear to his heart. Solomon remembered this, and resolved to seek a personal renewal of that close *Alliance* which had been of such a nature as to bind a Gentile King with ties of *love* to the heart of the great David, the War King of the Hebrew People, and as *Hiram* had also heard of the death of his friend David, and the accession of *Solomon* to the throne of Israel, he also desired a *continuance* of the amicable relations which had ever existed between the two Kingdoms, and by reading the Fifth Chapter of the Book of the Kings, we find that the King of Tyre sent an embassy to the Court of Solomon, and assured him of the friendship of Hiram the King of Tyre. "And Hiram, King of

Tyre, *sent* his servants unto *Solomon*, for he had heard that they had anointed him King in the room of his Father; for Hiram was ever a lover of David," and Solomon at once returned the courtesy, which is Recorded in the Second Book of Chronicles, Second Chapter. "And Solomon sent to Hiram the King of Tyre, saying, As thou dids't deal with David my Father, and dids't send him *Cedars* to build him a house to dwell therein, *even so* deal with me. Behold, Thou knowest how that David my Father could not build a house unto the name of the Lord His God, for the Wars which were about him on every side. But now the Lord my God hath given me Rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent, and, Behold, I purpose to Build a house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spake unto David, my Father, saying, Thy Son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, He shall build a house unto my name." Solomon was very careful in his reply to the Ambassage of Hiram, to tell him of the *Reason* of his purpose to build the house, Because of the Word of the Lord. *This is Recorded* in the Fifth Chapter of *the First Book of the Kings*. Solomon also explained to Hiram, that *the Temple* was to be a house of perpetual *worship of the God of Israel*. (Second Chronicles, Second Chapter). Behold! I Build a house *to the name of the Lord my God, to Dedicate it to Him*, and to Burn before Him Sweet *Incense*, and for

the continual Shew Bread, and for the Burnt Offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and *on the New Moons*, and on the solemn Feasts of The Lord Our God. *This is an Ordinance forever to Israel!* And the house which I build is Great, *For Great is Our God above All gods.*" Solomon, having told Hiram of the *superiority* of the *God of Israel*, over all other Deities, Entered at once upon his plan of work by requesting *Hiram*, King of Tyre, *to send A Master Mason! to take entire charge of the Building of the Temple.* "*Send me* now therefore a *Man* cunning to work in Gold, and in Silver, and in Brass, and in Iron, and in *Purple*, and *Crimson*, and *Blue*, and *one* that can skill to *Grave* with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my Father did provide." *This was the first step* of practical value that *Solomon* had yet taken in the Building of the Temple. But having taken the *initial step*, his next care was to request *Hiram* to send the *Timber* for the house, and the message was couched in the following language: "*Send me also Cedar Trees, Fir Trees*, and *Algum Trees, Out of Lebanon*; For I know that thy servants can *skill to cut Timber in Lebanon.* Now, therefore, command thou, that they *Hew* me *Cedar Trees Out of Lebanon*, and my servants shall be with thy servants, and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants, according to all that thou shalt appoint, for thou knowest there is not among us any that can

skill to Hew Timber like unto the Sidonians! Even to *prepare me Timber in abundance*, for the House which I am about to build shall be *wonderful great.*" King Solomon also *contracted* with King Hiram to *pay wages* of *Corn*, *Wine*, and *Oil* to his servants for their *labor*. "And, Behold, I will give to thy servants, *The Hewers that cut Timber*, Twenty Thousand Measures of Beaten *Wheat*, and Twenty Thousand Measures of *Barley*, and Twenty Thousand Baths of *Wine*, and Twenty Thousand Baths of *Oil.*" This *proposition* of Solomon to Hiram was made for *a strong Reason*, For although David and the people had contributed liberally of Gold and Silver, and though the great *Rock Quarries of "Marble Stones,"* were within the province of Judea, yet *Cedar!* was not abundant in the kingdom of *Solomon*, and therefore it was not an easy matter to obtain the precious *Cedar Trees* without the *friendship* of the *King of Tyre*, and even the *skilled Hewers* were the *servants* of *King Hiram*, and their services could *not* be obtained without the *co-operation* and *support* of *Hiram* King of Tyre. And the Record tells us that *Hiram answered the proposition of Solomon in writing* according to the *Eastern Custom*. "Then *Hiram* the King of Tyre answered *in writing, which he sent to Solomon*, saying, *I* have considered the things which thou sentest to me for, and I will do all thy desire concerning Timber of *Cedar*, and concerning Timber of *Fir*. My servants shall *Bring them*

down from Lebanon unto the Sea, and I will convey them by Sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be *discharged there, and thou shalt receive them*, and thou shalt accomplish my desire in giving food for my household. So *Hiram gave Solomon Cedar Trees and Fir Trees* according to all his desire, and *Solomon gave Hiram* Twenty Thousand Measures of *Wheat* for food to his household, and Twenty Measures of *pure Oil.* Thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year, and *the Lord gave Solomon Wisdom*, as He had promised him, and there was *Peace between Hiram and Solomon*, and *They Two Made a League together.*"

This league of the two Kings, *Hiram and Solomon*, was the *human beginning of practical Masonry*, for after the *two men* had formed their *compact of friendship, morality, and brotherly love*, the actual Building of the *Temple* began in earnest! Under the eyes of *these two men*, who were *the First Masons* in the history of the *Craft*, that practiced *operative Masonry* in the construction of *a permanent Building*, erected upon principles of *Masonic Law.* Moses had *received from God the masonic measurements of the Ark and the Tabernacle*, and *Bezaleel* and *Aholiab* had executed *that* great design; But *they* were taught by *Jehovah!* in order that *His plans* might be fulfilled to the letter. But in the case of *Solomon* and *Hiram*, the scene was entirely different. *Israel* was a *Kingdom.* God was supremely

reverenced by all the people of *Israel.* Solomon the King! was the *teacher of Wisdom*, and his name had been published far and wide among the nations of his day. The Kingdom of *Phenecia* was also a powerful Kingdom, and as the city of *Tyre* was its principal *sea port*, it was very naturally a great commercial Centre, and, having renewed the friendly relation between the two great nations, and having *established* the same by *a written Contract*, Solomon decided to begin at once upon the long intended *Temple of The God of Israel.* And again we consult the sacred Record of *the Chronicles*, "And the King commanded, and they brought *great stones*, costly stones, and *hewed* stones, to lay the *foundation* of the house, and Solomon's builders, and Hiram's builders, did *hew* them and the *stonesquarers.* So they *prepared* timber and stones to build the house. *Hiram* said moreover, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, Who hath given to David the King, a wise son, endued with *Prudence* and Understanding, that might build a house for the Lord, and a house for his Kingdom. Now therefore! the *wheat*, and the *barley*, the *oil*, and the *wine*,, which my lord hath spoken of, let him *send* unto his servants, and we will *cut wood out of Lebanon*, as much as thou shalt need. And we will bring it to thee *in floats by sea to Joppa!* And thou shalt *carry it up to Jerusalem.* And now *I have sent a cunning Man*, endued with understanding, of

Hiram my Father's. *The Son* of a woman of the daughters of *Dan*, and his father was a Man of *Tyre*, skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in *stone*, and in *timber*, in *purple*, in *blue*, and in *fine linen*, and in *crimson*. Also! *to grave* any manner of graving, and to find out every *device* which shall be put to him with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father." Thus! *the Master Workman of the temple! Was asked for by Solomon! And promised, and sent by Hiram King of Tyre.* The great undertaking was now fairly begun. All the material was *prepared* and ready for use. All the workmen were ready for *labor*, acting under the *joint* instruction of King *Solomon* and *the Master workman*, and according to the *wisdom* of *Solomon, the grand master builder*, the *grades of labor* had been carefully examined, and the artificers had been duly classified as *Burden Bearers, Hewers* of wood and stone and *Overseers* of the regular Temple Labor. The *Cedar* trees and the *Fir* trees had all been contracted for, and a special agreement had been reached between *Solomon and Hiram*, as to the amount of corn, wine, and oil which was to be *sent* to *Hiram*, in payment for the services of the Sidonian *hewers*, and the great mass of material was now awaiting the appearance of the grand *Master* Mind! who was to *erect* the great *Temple* and carry forward its varied departments of labor until the *completion* of the great building should crown

his earnest efforts. *This* man whom though a workman, was the *equal of the two great Kings, Solomon* of Israel, and *Hiram* of Tyre, was to *rear* the noblest pile of architectural *strength* and *beauty* that had ever been built by human skill, to grace the earth with its presence, and a reference to the 3d chapter of the 2d Book of the Chronicles, will show us the location, and time, of the *beginning* of the work. "*Then Solomon began* to build the house of the Lord *at Jerusalem* in Mount *Moriah*, where the Lord *appeared* unto *David* his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite." And by these plain words of the writer of the Chronicles, there is, and can be *No Doubt*! as to the real *site* of the *Solomonic* Temple of the God of Israel, "And he *began* to build in the *second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign.*" The Record, as found in the 6th Chapter of the First Book of the Kings, is even more explicit in its description of the actual time that Solomon began to build the beautiful Temple of God at Jerusalem.

"And it came to pass in the *four hundred and eightieth year* after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the *fourth* year of Solomon's reign, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord." And it is also a wonderful *fact* that *a Mason!* can always tell the *exact* time of the beginning of the

Order in a practical operative sense by the knowledge of the *year*, the *month*, and the *day*, when *the Temple of God* was *commenced.* Where is there upon the earth an Order among men that can in truth cite its members to a *record of three thousand years* of actual unbroken existence, and fix the genuine *date*, when *the Craft was first set to work by its first grand officers? Masonry* not only does this in full and without the slightest doubt or hesitation as to the investigation of its claims, but it even goes *beyond* the wildest dreams of romance or the credibility of man, and *fixes* the actual date of the *laying of the foundation* and gives the names of the *Masons* who began work on the great *Temple a thousand years before the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.* And, in the clear light of this great fact of Ages! *The Master Mason!* is a Brother in an *Order* of Men that is as far removed from all societies as the East is from the West. And in regard to its *origin and ancient practice*, it is as far above all other Orders as the heaven is above the earth. There is not a Master Mason in all the circuit of the known world but whom can *tell* the inquiring soul that Masonry first *began real labor* for the *first* time upon *Mount Moriah* in the City of *Jerusalem in Judea* upon the *second day of the second month*—the month Zif—in the year 1012 Before Christ! Nor is this all that can be attested in the pursuit of the literal facts of *Bible Masonry!* Every Building which had been

erected by human hands, previous to the Temple Building, owed its existence to the physical need, or superstitious fear, of the men who erected it. The Men of the River Drift were glad to find a shelter from the weather, and shared the rude dwelling with the wild animals whose bones are often found contiguous to his own in the clefts of the ancient Rock Cliffs that still remain to tell us of a race of human beings who lived and died upon the same level as the brute beasts that were the sharers of their cave dwellings in the banks of the rivers of prehistoric Ages! But, as the centuries rolled on and the innate "spirit in Man" asserted itself, Man bent the tops of trees together toward the earth by the strong hands and powerful sinews of crude and savage strength! And it was because of the physical needs of man that an artificial means of shelter suggested itself and was adopted by man on account of its feasibility in allowing him to build a shelter wherever he chose to use it, whether of necessity or convenience. And from the rude attempts of primeval man to build a house by bending the trees to the earth until the day that the *Masons* of King Solomon's Temple laid the *first foundation stone*, there had been a gradual advancement and improvement in the Art of Architecture—which was utilized for twin purposes of Physical Shelter, and later in the centuries for Worship of the Sun. And as the savage physical nature slowly de-

veloped during the earlier existence of the human race, so in the process of ages the Mental nature also was developed by the very circumstance of ever-increasing knowledge, and a widening circle of life. And, as a rational result of the dim awakening of the mind power within the human animal, there arose a desire for *light* upon the reason of his existence. And, as among the celestial bodies above his rude dwelling, he perceived the Sun rising in glory, and dispelling the shades of night, his simple mind was filled with wonder, and the inner nature was stirred by a nameless Dread! Man was afraid of the Unknown! Man learned the use of the element of fire! and kindled a flame upon *a great stone!* the Rough Altar of Nature. Rude carvings of the Sun were cut upon the rugged cliffs that faced toward the *East!* Images of the great Reptiles were fashioned from the chalk and limestone, and these were afterward copied, as man learned the use of metals, in Copper, Bronze, Silver, and in Gold! Images! of clay were also formed of Bird, Reptile, and Beast. Baked in the flames and hardened in appearance, the change was indicative to man of a hidden quality of life. And thus man invested the image with imaginary attributes, according to the crude ideals of a rough, untutored mind. Man bowed before the idols he had created, he built Great Temples! he planted groves of trees and set up the shrine of his idol god. As

man advanced in the grades of civilization, his imagination and power of thought kept pace with his physical progression, and we find man building Costly Temples for the repositories of his gods, and yet, although the quality of the workmanship was such as to command more than a passing glance from the mechanic of this present era of learning and progress, still the motive for their beautiful idol temples was the result of a superstitious fear! that seems to have held the entire race of human beings within its terrible grip. It was because of this existing state of affairs that the Temples and the gods within were held sacred for a little time—only to be in time neglected, and finally deserted, and left to ruin, as the later races, each bringing its quota of the superstition of its age—stepped forward in imagination and created other gods. The term of their existence was necessarily to end with their Creator's extirpation or subjugation by still other races, each with their idols and temples, and in accordance with ancient custom. A conquered people were generally forced to accept and adopt the idols of their conquerors. This had been the fate of every people upon the face of the earth, and the relics that may still be found in the now abandoned regions of the globe are silent, and yet eloquent witnesses! and prove this certain fact! That the death of a Nation was the sure harbinger of death for its idol, temple,

and household gods—For the Temples of some of the later nations of idol worshippers are yet standing, in a ruined state, and covered with the accumulated debris of centuries of decay! A Ruin, which has been accelerated by the convulsions of nature, and the changes of climate. But the name of the god in whose honor they were erected is unknown to the World, and the men that placed these temples in position belonged to a race that has vanished from this earth, before even the dawn of historic light. By this light! we trace the footprints of Ancient peoples. But it fails utterly to illumine the dark pages of the life of Prehistoric Man. But there was a reason for the ruin of these temples and their gods to be found in this fact, namely: that these temples were erected for the shelter of a god, whose only value in the minds of that people was in his supposed power to avert disaster, or produce blessing. But the people have "Gone the way of all the earth." Their idols have perished in the common ruin, which, unable to avert, they inevitably shared, and though we strain the eye of our mentality and seek by the refraction of the double-lensed telescope of reason and philosophy to pierce the veil of gloom and antediluvian darkness, yet never has a ray of light been reflected upon the retina of our mental vision. They are indeed vanished people, vanished gods. "And the places that once knew

them shall know them no more forever." This has been the common fate of every temple, god, and people of the idolatry of the past. And, as the Temple of the Lord God of Israel was the *first* Temple ever reared in *his* name, it is a remarkable truth that the very *place* of its foundation is definitely known, and the time of its *erection* has been safely and accurately preserved and *Recorded* by responsible men, the central figures of the heroic ages of the great epochs of the national life of famous people. And in addition to this the Temple of God was actually built upon a *plan* and *specified measurements which originated with God*, and were given by *him* to King Solomon *with special instructions.* "Now these are the things whereof Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of the Lord, the *length* thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof, twenty cubits, and the height thereof, thirty cubits." (I. Kings, 6th chapter.)

The opinions of Masons have varied in regard to the dimensions of this first Temple of God, and there is but *one* standard authority on the subject, and *that* is the record of the *Bible!* and there is also a variance in the exact number of inches that were in the Cubit, by which the Temple of God was measured.* "Three Cubits were used in the time of the Hebrew monarchy. (1.) The Cubit of a man (Deut. 3:11), or the common

*Smith's Bible Dict., page 990, Art.—Weights and Measures.

Cubit of Canaan, of the Chaldean standard. (2.) The Old Mosaic, or legal Cubit, a hand breadth larger than the first (one inch.) (3.) The New Cubit, which was still larger, and agreed with the larger Egyptian Cubit of about 20–6 inches, used in the Nilometer. The ordinary Cubit of the Bible did not come up to the full length of the Cubits of other countries." And it is because of this fact of variation in the actual inch value of the Hebrew Cubit, and the total destruction of the old foundations, that the true measurement of the Temple of God, will never be known except by an approximation of the relative values of the Cubit of those days, and this, subject to reservation of positive judgment in the minds of conservative scholarship. The smallest Cubit measured 15 inches, the next largest 18 inches, and the generally accepted Cubit of the Mosaic and Solomonic period would seem to be as near the approximation of literal measurement, as the most eminent scholars have been able to ascertain—namely: 1 ft. 6 in., or 18 inches to the Cubit, and it is not assuming too much when we say that this variance can never be accurately adjusted, owing to the absence of the original foundations, and here the discussion must surely and invariably end, for as there cannot be a shadow without a solid body from which to emanate, by means of rays of light, so, by the same law of *logic* there can be no literal truth in figures that have a movable basic point, and

the question of the length of the Solomonic Cubit will never be solved correctly as to the number of inches in modern measurement which it contained simply because we do not know and never can know the Cubit measure by which the temple was constructed, and this is the opinion of the leading scholarship of Bible Weights and Measures. This is also a fact in regard to the Temple of Solomon, and as we can only judge of its dimensions by approximate proportionment, it is unwise for us to desire "a mental picture of that Temple according to the modern measures of the present," for it cannot be! As well request a Geologist to give the color and scent of the stone lily of fifty thousand years ago, and expect to receive a satisfactory reply, as to estimate by modern rules the measures of such an ancient building whenever the foundations have utterly disappeared forever. But there is one curious and very impressive coincidence in regard to the *proportion* which existed between the measurements of The *Temple* of God in Jerusalem and The *Tabernacle* of the Ark of God in the Wilderness! and the fact is simply this: That every Cubit measurement of the Ark of the Covenant and The *Tabernacle* of The Ark was *exactly one-half* of the measurement of the *Temple Building*, or in other words the Temple in its measurements was *exactly double* all the Ark and Tabernacle measures. The *inner repository* of the

tabernacle in the wilderness was built for the reception *the Ark of the Covenant*, and was within the space of a perfect *Cube* of 10 cubits in length, breadth, and height, and the *inner Holy of Holies in the Temple of God* was also a perfect *Cube* of 20 cubits in length, breadth, and height. The length of the Tabernacle was 30 cubits, while the length of the Temple was 60 cubits. The breadth of the Tabernacle was 10 cubits, and the breadth of the Temple was 20 cubits. The height of the Tabernacle was 15 cubits, and the height of the Temple was 30 cubits, and we are also informed that there was a *porch* in front of the building that was *120 cubits in height* and *20 cubits in length* in accordance with the breadth or width of the main building, and this *porch* was also 10 cubits broad before the Temple, and thus we are enabled from these direct figures to form a correct ideal of the Temple in regard to its perfect cubic *proportions* in accord with the plain record of the Bible and the rules of cubic measurement. The Holy Place was a perfect *Square* of 20 cubits every way, and it was situated in the *Eastern* end of the great Temple building. The distance from the Holy Place to the Temple porch was 40 cubits toward the West, and as the breadth of the Temple was 20 cubits, it is easy for us to see the perfect proportion of the great *Oblong Square* of 60 by 20 cubits in length and breadth with a perfect *Square* or *Cube* of 20 cubits cut off for the Holy Place at the *East-*

ern extremity, and in the conservative measurement of the accepted cubit of 18 inches to the cubit it is a certainty that the length of the Temple from East to West was not less than 60 cubits or *90 feet*, and that the breadth was fully 20 cubits, or *30 feet*, and that the height of the walls and ceiling was 30 cubits, or *45 feet*. These figures have at least the merit of a true and conservative estimate according to the *accepted* length of the cubit of *Solomonic* times, and it is *certain* that the *Temple* was of *these* dimensions, although by the employment of the other Cubits its figures in modern measurement would, of course, be much larger.

But the figures thus adduced are governed by the average cubit, or from the smallest cubit of 15 inches to the largest cubit of 22 inches, which is the minimum average of 18 inches to the cubit, and *this* is the only reliable base of measurement by which we have any right to estimate the cubit measure of the Temple of The God of Israel. And, as we notice the wonderful dual similarity, in the *appearance* and *measurements* of the *Tabernacle* and the *Temple*, and of the perfect symmetry of the entire *plan*, in the complete reproduction of the actual figures and specifications of *God, as He delivered them to Moses*, The human Mind is overwhelmed at the accuracy and might of *Divine* Power! and Infinite *Knowledge*, delegated by God to *Moses* and *Solomon*, Which must *forever* stamp *The Tem-*

ple of God as The Wonder of all the wonders of this wonderful world. And, in the building of the Temple, there was a principle followed that was unique in its design, and is a solitary instance, amid centuries of architectural skill, of a Building actually erected of *Stones*, that were *fitted* for their places in the Temple *before they left the quarries* where they were found. "And the house, when it was in building, was built of *Stone made ready before* it was brought thither, so that there was neither hammer, nor ax, nor any tool of iron, heard in the house while it was *in building*" (I. Kings, 6th Chapter).

And it was by the special direction of *God* that this principle was adopted and strictly followed by the *Temple* workmen, "And there shalt thou build an *altar* unto the Lord thy God, An Altar of *Stones!* Thou shalt not lift up any iron tool upon them (Deut. 27). Every stone in that Temple was to be *quarried*, *Hewed*, *Sawed*, *fitted* and *polished* before it could *enter* that perfect building, because as *God had forbidden* the use of *any tool of iron* upon the *altar* that Joshua was commanded to build in memory of the passage through the Jordan into the land of Canaan. So the same power had now forbidden the use of *iron* in the construction of *His Temple.* And it was to teach the people this lesson, That, as the actual *rock material* for the Temple was to be *quarried out* from the ledge in which it had been placed through the forces of na-

ture, so the Lord had lifted out His chosen people from the land of Egypt, with a mighty *hand* and an outstretched *arm*. And, as the *rough* specimens of the quarry were *sawed*, and *hewed*, and *squared*, and *polished* for their *fitted* places in the great Temple in Jerusalem, so the Lord had *prepared* His people through the qualifying experiences of the wilderness journey, in their literal dependency upon God for *strength* and *establishment* in the land of Promise, which, by a faithful following of *His* orders, they hoped to reach in due time. And in the beginning of the Temple work it will be noticed that a promise had been made to King *Solomon* of a cunning workman of *Tyre*, and "King Solomon sent and fetched *Hiram* out of Tyre; he was a *widow's* son, of the tribe of Napthali, and his father was a man a man of Tyre, a worker in Brass, and he was filled with *wisdom* and understanding and cunning to work all things in brass, and he came to King Solomon and wrought all his work" (I. Kings, 7). Hiram also was ready to begin the great work of the Temple, and he examined and chose a place in the *Jordan Valley* in which to begin the *casting* of the instruments of Brass. The *Bible* tells us that *Hiram* chose "the *clay ground in the plain of Jordan, between Succoth and Zarthan!* And then the real work of the Temple began in earnest. There were *two Pillars of Brass* needed for the *Porch* of the Temple, because the *Bible* also tells us that

"He cast two pillars of brass of 18 cubits high apiece, and he made two Chapiters of molten brass to set upon the tops of the pillars; the height of One Chapiter was 5 cubits, and the height of the Other Chapiter was 5 cubits, and the Chapiters that were upon the top of the pillars were of *Lily Work* in the Porch, 4 cubits" (I. Kings, 7). These figures amount in the aggregate to *27 Cubits*, and we are further told of *a line* of 12 cubits that *compassed* them about, and we may therefore be certain from the special detailed account in the Book of The Kings that the plain *pillar* was cast of a length of 18 cubits, and *Josephus also agrees with the Bible exactly in his description of these ancient pillars of The Porch of The Temple, and says, "The height of the pillars was 18 cubits, and their circumference 12 cubits. But there was cast with each of their Chapiters *Lily Work* that stood upon the pillar, and it was *elevated* five cubits, round about which there was *network*, interwoven with small Palms, made of brass and covered the lily work; to this also were hung two hundred pomegranates in two rows." Thus we find that the actual pillar was cast 18 cubits in length, and that the chapiter above the top of the pillar was composed of lily work and network that occupied the additional space of 5 cubits. The Bible also says, "The Chapiters that were upon the top of the pillars

*Antiquities, Book VIII., Chap. III, Flavius Josephus.

were of *lily work* in the porch, 4 cubits." This description is complete, and therefore the actual *height of the pillars* from the floor of the porch to the top must be as follows: Pillar 18 cubits, lily and network 5 cubits, and Chapiter upon the top 4 cubits, amounting in all to 27 cubits, which gives us two pillars of brass with *entablature* of lily work and surmounted with chapiters or *capitals*, making two pillars of *27 cubits!* or (according to Solomonic cubit of 18 inches) *40 ft. 6 in. in height*, and by allowing 3 cubits for the Base and Plinth we have two pillars of brass of 30 cubits in height from the floor to the top of the chapiter! 30 cubits, *or 45 feet*, which it will be well remembered was the *height* of the *walls* of the Temple, and to still further examine the proof of this measurement we have but to read the *later* writings of Jeremiah, the prophet of God, who, in speaking of these same two pillars of brass in the year 588 B. C., or 417 years *after* the pillars were cast. At the time of their removal by Nebuzar-Adan from Jerusalem to Babylon. "And, concerning the pillars: The height of one pillar was 18 cubits, and a fillet of 12 cubits did compass it, and the thickness thereof was 4 fingers; it was *hollow*, and a chapiter of brass was upon it. And the height of one chapiter was 5 cubits, with network and pomegranates upon the chapiters round about, all of brass. The second pillar also, and the pomegranates were like unto these." (Jer., 52nd chapter.)

This statement of Jeremiah is plain and concise, and agrees in every respect to the *record* of the *Kings*. It was written 400 years *after* the pillars had been set up in the Porch of the Temple; and still there is an account in the Second Book of the Chronicles of the casting of two pillars 35 cubits in height, which were surmounted by Chapiters of 5 cubits in height, which would make a total measurement of 40 cubits in height, and this statement has led to endless argument as to which of these statements is absolutely correct, and to this seemingly unexplainable problem we will answer that the difference in these statements is easily explained by this simple fact: That, as the Hebrew people had never progressed in the Arts and Sciences because of the fact that they were compelled by circumstances to be a nation of warriors, they were obliged to erect the Temple, and as they had no special skill in *architecture*, they were obliged to be governed by the plans of the *master mason* of *Tyre*, who had been *sent* by *special request* of the Hebrew King from *Hiram*, King of Tyre. And this Tyrian brass-worker had made the porch and the pillars according to his own *design*, for there was nothing said about two pillars of brass in *God's* instructions to Solomon, and as the Phenicians were the leaders in the Arts, and had learned and practically absorbed the best ideals of cultured nations who were their contemporaries. They had *proved* their ability to

execute practical and ornamental *architecture*, and a knowledge of the skill required in the trades of *Masonry* that had come to the ear of King *Solomon!* And Solomon proved his faith in the *quality* of their achievements in this line by mentioning in his letter to *King Hiram* this complimentary tribute to the *merit* of the workmen of King Hiram of Tyre: "None can skill to hew timber like unto the *Sidonians.*" The *strength* of the plain *Doric* Order, in architecture, was welded to the *beauty* of the *Composite* Order, and the beautiful and massive buildings of Phenicia were substantial proofs of the knowledge and skill of the *Masons of the City of Tyre.* And, from the unusual height of the Temple *Porch* and its splendid ornamentation, "Overlaid with Gold," it is a certainty! that the *Order* of Architecture employed upon the great *Porch*, and mighty *Pillars*, would necessarily be of the *Phenician composite* variety, simply because of this fact: The *Master* Mason in charge of the work was a man of *Tyre*, and, as he had no special orders in regard to the *porch* or *pillars*, he would naturally build them in *Phenician* fashion, and for the same reason the cubit measurement would also be of the larger *Egyptian* standard of measurement, and besides this, they were cast 18 cubits in length, which was a complete and startling departure from the factors of the number *Ten*, which up to this time had been the ruling figure both of the *Ark*, the *Tabernacle*, and the

Temple buildings, and by a consideration of the number of cubits of the 15-inch variety, of the later times of the writing of the Chronicles of the Kings, would surely be greater in the descriptive measurements of the pillars erected by a *foreign* standard cubit than the number of *standard* cubits by which the pillars had been *originally* cast.

For, if the pillars were cast 18 cubits in length by the *Mosaic* or *Egyptian* standards of 19, 21, or 22 inches to a cubit, it will readily be seen that a *greater* number of 15 inch cubits would be required in describing the same measures, as to the definite altitude of these pillars of the Temple Porch. And as Hiram was a man of *Tyre*, in full charge, and with *Phenician* and *Egyptian* cubit measure as his natural and reliable standard, and designing the porch and pillars according to *his own mind*, It is more than probable that they were cast by the ancient Cubit of 22 inches, the cubit of Egypt, and were measured in later times by the smaller *Jewish* cubit of 15 inches. Because the Recorders were obliged to use the cubit of their day in describing the pillars. And, while the actual height of the pillars was a certainty of 30 Cubits, according to the *Bible*, yet the *ratio* of the differential cubit measures would naturally produce a seeming contradiction, and form a real discrepancy, when in reality there is not the slightest difference in either account when we consider the standpoint of the shift-

ing values of the *three* prominent *Cubits* of ancient measurements in the early days of the Temple Builders. And upon this explanation, which is supported by the descriptive *plan* of the Book of the Kings, and Reiterated by Jeremiah the prophet of God 400 years afterward, The Mason! of the *Past!* the *Present!* and the *Future!* may safely rest assured; for, as the outward life of King Solomon was tinged with the dark stain of the idolatry of his Egyptian wife, yet his *heart* was ever *faithful* to the Lord God of Israel. And in the same manner, while it is true that the *externals* of the pillars and porch of the Temple were all built and ornamented by an artist Mason, who was of a *foreign* birth and blood, yet the House of God was built by *Solomon the Son of David*, Who *personally* constructed the *Holy of Holies!* and enclosed it for 20 cubits on every side with boards of the precious *Cedar*, brought from *Lebanon*. "So Solomon built the house, and finished it, and he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house and the walls of the ceiling, and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. And he built 20 cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls, with boards of *cedar*. He even built them for it within, even for the Oracle, even for the most *Holy Place*. And the house, that is, the temple before it, was 40 cubits long." (I. Kings, 6th chap.)

And by this description we may see that the *Secret Temple* of the God of Israel, was built simply and perfectly by the very man whom God instructed to Build His Temple. Being built of *Cedar*, it was a valuable building, even in the nature of intrinsic worth. Because the *cedar* timber had been *cut* and *hewed* in the forests of *Lebanon*. It had been brought from Lebanon to the seaport of *Tyre*, and had been transported to Joppa across the sea in floats, which was an ancient custom in shipping timber and stone from one place to another on the *sea coast* of the Mediterranean. And, having been thus conveyed from Lebanon to Joppa it had been carried through the rough and broken country of Judea to the City of *Jerusalem*, and was used to ceil and wall the house of God. Truly it was valuable, even for the *Cedar* that adorned its great walls and ceiling. But we also read that "He overlaid it with gold," and that the doors and hinges were of gold. And it was the evident intent of the Lord to show, by the perfect measurement, superior quality of material, and splendid ornamentation, the *Riches! Perfection!* and *Glory!* of the Lord God of Israel.

But again we return to the great Porch, and inspect the fine workmanship of the Tyrian Mason! There was a deep meaning in the lily work around the chapiters of the two great pillars, for the lily has ever been an emblem of Purity among every civilized

people. The beautiful buildings of Egypt were ornamented by capitals, frieze, and cornice of fretted and lily work, and the theory already hinted, of the introduction of Egyptian architecture into the beautiful Porch of the Temple by the Phenician *Mason!* is still further advanced, and more fully developed, by this lovely emblem of purity, the lily of Egypt! the Beauty of the sacred Nile, as it appears upon the chapiter of these wonderful temple Pillars, because this beautiful design of lily work was universally adopted by the ancients, on account of the graceful lines of its natural *beauty* and delicacy of form, and also because of the suggestive thought of *Purity*, which has ever been symbolized by that sweet flower. And in all civilized ages the white lily has been emblematical of the *strength* of purity of life, as its delicate yet powerful perfume is a sweet and lasting joy. For these reasons the cunning mason of Tyre caused the lily work of purity to be *protected* by the interwreathed *chain work* of real *strength!* which was to declare in powerful *symbolic* language from the summit of each magnificent pillar! The *Strength*, *Beauty*, and *Purity* of the wonderful building which they adorned, and of the sublime *Creator* in whose name the great Temple had been erected; and thus, though emblems from a foreign land, the Lily work and the Chain work were eloquent in their beautiful testimony of the purity of the great God of Israel and the *strength* of His King-

dom. As the traveler entered that western porch, and looked with wondering and bewildered vision upon the vast proportions and surpassing loveliness of the great Pillars, and the temple Porch, as he faced the *East!* with its *Sanctuary* of the most high God, the mind was impressed with the solemn and sacred *beauty* of the ravishing magnificence of the *entrance* portal, and the Spirit was hushed and silent in the Presence of the God of Israel. And the devout worshipper of the True God was constantly and forcibly reminded of the righteous injunction, "Keep thyself Pure," and also of the assurance of the *help* of God in every time of *need*, for the chain work was also suggestive of the promise of God to Joshua, "Be Strong! and of good courage, and as I was with Moses so I will be with thee."

Again we read that the capitals were covered with a Network of checker work, and that this adornment was still further beautified by a double row of Pomegranates! And these *emblems* were also significant, both in their Egyptian origin and their true symbolic meaning to the Temple worshippers. The network of checker work was emblematic of close *unity!* and expressed the ideal of true hearted believers in one God—a mutual bond of common love for God and each other. "Whatsoever things ye would that men do unto you, do ye even so to them." Thus, the Netted checker work taught that people *Unity* of

Reverence for God, amid the changing scenes of earthly life and the *checkered* pathway of human hope.

The Pomegranate! had been from time that was immemorial the Egyptian *Symbol of Plenty.* And thus the entire design of the Lily work, Chain work, Net work, and Pomegranates was most beautifully delineated as a blessing and guide to the people. That as the lily work of purity was protected by the chain work of strength, and covered with the network of Unity, were linked to the pomegranates of plenty, so they signified to all that a nation of pure-hearted people, worshipping the True God in that Temple, practicing Purity of life, *bound* in a mutual Network of *love* and *service* of God, *Strong* in the power of the *God of Israel,* would live and prosper in a land of plenty, while they continued to serve Him. And God had promised them just such a future, dependent only upon the obedience of the people to His divine law, for the *commandments of God were the basic principles of their national existence.*

This! was the meaning of these pillars of brass in the Temple Porch. We are also told that "He reared up the pillars before the Temple, and he set up the pillars in the Porch of the Temple—one on the *right* hand, and the other on the *left.*" And we also find that, according to another foreign custom, he *named* the pillars in such a manner as to suggest the idea of

a powerful rulership for a long time to come. And another fact in regard to the two pillars of brass is this: They were placed in such a position as to compel every man that *entered* the Temple by the *western* gate of the Porch to *enter* into the building upon the *ground floor*, and to *pass* between the pillars, in order to gain access to the *interior* chambers of the house of God. And as long as the mind and memory of the human race shall preserve and cherish the ideal of worship of God, which was embodied in the great Temple for the instruction of the intellect, the polishing of finely tempered natures, the *love* of *truthfulness* and fair dealing, the *repression* of vice, and all *improper* desires of the mind and body, so long will they remember the *lesson* that was taught the people of God from that *Book of Brass*, whose pages were *lettered* with 4 cubits of lily work. And as the student of History, and the lover of Masonry, *pass* between the pillars and enter the *inner* building of God, gleaming with the *stones* and rare gems which had found their way from the distant mines to their places in the golden walls, and redolent with the breath of the Lebanon *Cedars*, Looking toward the *East!* where the Altar of Gold flashed out the reflection of the softened light from the beautiful golden *Lamps* that illumined the holy courts of God with calm and radiant brilliancy. And, as he realizes the full meaning of the sacred, solemn

scene, the senses are enthralled in a holy meditative silence as he approaches the *altar* to offer up his fervent *adoration of Deity.* He bows the *knee* and bends the *form*, while his *heart* draws nigh to the God of Israel. The Great Temple was finished! for again the sacred record speaks to the *attentive ear.*" In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the Lord laid in the month Zif. And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it—so was he *seven years* in building it. (I. Kings, 6.) Solomon had succeeded in the great undertaking of building the Temple of God, and now that the work had been completed, and the Temple was ready for the service of God to be instituted in it, then appeared a fact worthy of attention that Solomon had actually built the Temple within the sacred *circle* of the Divine number Seven. *Seven* days were designed by the All-wise Creator for the full completion of Labor and its counterpart of Rest. And following in the same pathway of providential timing of labor and rest, *Seven* years of unremitting toil and spendid success were the boundary lines of the time allotted by the God of Israel for the completion of the Temple which had been built by His Plan.

God had chosen Solomon to Build His Temple, and, in obedience to the *divine* will, Solomon had willingly

consented, and had been encouraged by *King Hiram* of Tyre, the friend of David his Father. And we have seen that Hiram proved his love by helping Solomon. We have also seen the *cedars* of Lebanon that Hiram sent from *Tyre* to *Jerusalem* by way of *Joppa!* We have possibly touched the great and costly *hewed* marble stones, and the stones of "*The Old Foundations*"—stones that were *prepared*, made ready, *before* they were carried from the natural *quarry* to the sacred precincts of the Temple of God. We have *entered* the ranks of the *Burden Bearers* of the Temple, and have perhaps also passed from the *ground floor* to the *inner* Temple. We may have stood *within* the ceiled chambers, in the presence of the *Master* Workman, and *listened* to the words of *wisdom*, as he taught us from the sacred *Record Book* of the God of Israel, Words of instruction, reprimand, warning, sentence, or commendation, and have been exhorted to devotional faith in an hour of peril; thus We too have *realized* that the Temple of God is Finished. And as Solomon, in the presence of the thousands of Israel, called upon all present *to bow the knee* before the God of Israel, in the Temple *erected* unto Him, so the *Mason!* will *reverence* the *name* of the great *Creator* and *bow* in *adoration of Deity* at the *Masonic Altar* of eternal *friendship*, *morality*, and *brotherly love*, and while remembering his brethren of the ancient Craft in the ties of *Masonry*, he will in *heart dedicate* himself to the

service of The Divine Master and serve him as a *Mason* in the Temples of *to-day*.

CHAPTER IV.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE.

After the Temple had been completed, it was the wish of King Solomon to Dedicate it unto *God*, in whose name it had been erected, and by whose special direction the work been brought to a final and successful termination. And there was but one way of procedure in the manner of its dedication, and that was to perform all the ceremonial in the presence of The Ark of The Covenant, and, in order to do this, it was necessary for King Solomon to have the Ark *transported* from the place where it had rested since the time of its journey from Kirjath-Jearim to Judea. And it is necessary that the exact place of its presence be *known* to all who are interested in Masonic History! And, by referring to the Record Book of Samuel the Prophet (2nd Sam., 5th chap.) we read that "*David took the stronghold of Zion, the same is the City of David;* so David dwelt in the Fort and called it the City of David." The entire city of Jerusalem was the nominal possession of the King, yet the place where he had first intrenched himself upon entering into the country was peculiarly adapted for the powerful name of the Fortress of Zion! The original City of David was built upon the Southwestern side of the

Castle of Zion, and we also read that David built round about from Millo! Millo was a knoll that rose from the plain on the Northern outskirts of Jerusalem, and the Temple was built upon Mount Moriah, which was the actual *site* of the *original* City of David. And again we read (2nd Chron., 3d Chap.) "Solomon began to build the House of the Lord at Jerusalem *in Mount Moriah*," and in consequence of this *fact*, which is so plainly asserted in the *Bible*, we should also find a statement of the location of the *Ark* at the termination of its strange journey from Ashdod to Jerusalem.

And this statement is very clearly given in II. Sam., 6th chapter, "So David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the City of David with gladness. And they *brought in* the Ark of the Lord, and *set it* in his place in the midst of the Tabernacle that David had pitched for it." And this record of Samuel is again fully supported by this fact, that when the Temple was finished, "Then Solomon assembled the Elders of Israel, and all the Heads of the tribes, the Chief of the Fathers of the children of Israel, unto King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, *Out of the City of David, which is in Zion.*" We must notice also that as the people in the wilderness were forbidden to proceed until the Ark was released from the Cloud that rested upon it, so King Solomon desired that the Ark should first be

placed within the proper place in the great Temple before proceeding with the *dedicatory* ceremonial, and we find that "All the men of Israel assembled themselves unto King Solomon in the month Ethanim, which is the *seventh* month, and the *Priests* took up the Ark, and *brought up* the Ark of the Lord and the Tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy *vessels* that were *in* the Tabernacle, even those did the *Priests* and the *Levites* bring up, and King *Solomon* and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him were with him before the Ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be told nor numbered for multitude, and the Priests *brought in* the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord unto his place, into the *Oracle* of the house, to the *most holy place*, even under *the wings* of the *Cherubims*, for the Cherubims spread forth their *two wings* over the place of the Ark, and the Cherubims *covered* the Ark and the *staves* thereof above, and they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were *seen* out in the holy place before the Oracle, and they were not seen *without*, and there they are unto this day." This account was *written* during the *second half* of the *Babylonian* captivity of the children of Israel, and it tells us *plainly* of the manner in which Solomon began the service of the Lord *in the Temple* which he had built in *His* name, and the most important portion of the narrative to a *Masonic* reader is, that a definite

and final location had been found for the *Ark* of the Covenant, and that from that time until the consummation of its service in the *ruins* of the Temple and the City, the Ark was to *remain* beneath the outspread wings of the protecting Cherubims which illustrated the *force* of the words of David the former King. "He shall *cover* thee with His Feathers, and under *His wings* shalt thou trust." (Psalm 91:1.) After the Ark had been placed in its proper situation, and the people were all preparing for the dedication of the Temple, a most startling *discovery* was made. "There was nothing *in* the Ark save the *two tables of stone* which *Moses put there* at Horeb when the Lord made a *covenant* with the children of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt." (I. Kings, 8.) We must now retrace our steps into the *History* of Israel for 347 years, from the year 1004 B. C., to the year 1451, B. C., and at *that* time while in the wilderness journey they had come to the Mountain of Horeb, where Moses had written the Book of the Law.

"And *Moses wrote this Law,* and delivered it unto the *Priests*, the sons of Levi, which bare the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, and unto all the Elders of Israel, saying, when All Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God, in the place which He shall choose, Thou shalt *read this law* before all Israel in their hearing; Gather the people together—Men, Women, and Children—and thy stranger that is with-

in thy gates, that they may *hear*, and that they may *learn* and *fear* the Lord your God and observe to *do all the words of this law*, and that their children, which have not known anything, may *hear* and *learn* to *fear* the Lord your God as long as ye live in the land, whether ye go *over Jordan* to possess it. And it came to pass, when *Moses* had made an end of writing the words of *this law* in a *Book* until they were finished, That Moses commanded the *Levites*, which bare the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, saying, *Take this Book of the Law and put it in the side of the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God*, that it may be there for a *witness* against thee." (Deut. 31st Chap.) Solomon fully realized the meaning of all this work, and understood more clearly than all the others the Power that for 347 years had still kept the ancient law, for, although men had looked into the Ark, they had paid the penalty of their curiosity; and although the Philistines had captured the Ark for a season, yet it had safely carried the law of the God of Israel. Even when placed upon a cart, drawn by two milch kine, the animals had traveled the highway until they came to the wheat fields of Beth-shemesh. The house of Obed-edom had been blessed by its stay of three months, and the Kingdom of Israel had been greatly prospered and blessed by its presence in the temporary Tabernacle which David had caused to be made and pitched in Mount Zion. And now, having been gifted by the

Lord, as never man had been gifted before in the history of the race, it only remained for *Solomon* to observe and rigidly enforce the *Law* of God. And, as the Ark was in the Holy Place, and the sacred law had been found *within it*, where Moses had caused it to be placed, in the wilderness journey, And finally! as all had been done that could be done before the *Dedication* Service, "*Solomon stood before the Altar* of the Lord, in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his *hands* toward Heaven. And it came to pass when the Priests were come out of the *Holy* Place that the *Cloud* filled the house of the Lord." This was the ancient *Symbol* of God's sure protection and Leadership. This same *Cloud* had covered the *Tabernacle*, and day by day had led the way through the wilderness. This same *Cloud* had covered *Moses* in the mountain of Sinai while receiving the law of God *from the hand of Jehovah* amid the convulsions of Nature and the distrustfulness of the people. This *cloud* was the *symbol* of the Presence of the Lord in His Temple; and the magnificent building with its wealth of beauty in material, design, and workmanship, would have been but a monumental example of misplaced faith on the part of its builders, if God had not honored their obedience to His plans by the *Cloud* of the *Presence* of the *God of Israel.*

But while *Solomon* the wise King *stood* before the Altar of Gold, with his hands spread toward heaven,

Behold! "the *cloud* filled the house of the Lord, and the Priests could not *stand* to minister *because* of the cloud, for the Glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord. Then spake *Solomon!* The Lord *said* that He would dwell in the thick *darkness.* I have surely built thee a house to dwell in—a settled place for thee to abide in *forever.*" What a wonderful moment! The melodious *voice* of the mighty King *Solomon* fell upon the still air, and, as the hushed assemblage *stood quietly, with bowed heads,* The *King* turned his face about and blessed all the congregation of Israel. "And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, which *spake* with his mouth unto *David* my father, and hath with his *hand* fulfilled it, saying, Whereas! it was in thine heart to build a house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. Nevertheless, Thou shalt not build the house, but thy *Son,* that shall come forth out of thy loins, he *shall* build the house unto my name. And The Lord hath performed His word that He spake, and *I am* risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and have built a house for the name of the Lord God of Israel, and I have set *there* a place for the Ark, *wherein* is the covenant of the Lord, which *He made* with our fathers when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. Therefore Now, Lord God of Israel, *Keep* with thy servant David my father, *That* Thou *promised* him!

saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel, so that thy children *take heed* to their way, that they *walk* before me as thou hast *walked* before me." *Solomon* believed in the promise of God, and fully expected that God would keep His word, because he knew the God of Israel could not lie, and his *faith* was firm, for his succeeding words are the vehicles of Prayer, and the true *simplicity* of the great King was never more fully shown, nor his childlike *faith in God* more sweetly expressed than in the opening words of the most wonderful *prayer* that was ever formed in a human soul, with always the *One* Exception! *CHRIST* the divine man, "And now, O God of Israel! let thy word I pray thee be verified, and hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward *this* place, and hear thou in *Heaven*, thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, *forgive*" (I. Kings, 8). The great King committed *himself*, his *people*, the *Ark*, and the *Temple* into the hands of *God* while *kneeling before the Altar of the Temple.* "And it was so that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, he arose from the Altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his Knees with his *hands* spread up to Heaven" (I. Kings, 8). And it should cause Masonic minds to notice with care the humble and imploring attitude of the wise *King*, in the presence of the *Altar* of the

Lord, and it should ever encourage all *masons* to firmly trust in the great Creator when we read this additional record in the Book of the Kings, "And He stood and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, Blessed be the Lord that hath given rest unto his people Israel. According to all that he promised there hath not failed one word of all His good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant, let your *heart* therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to *walk* in *His statutes* and to *Keep His Commandments* as at this day."

Israel was a favored people, favored by the Lord with a beautiful country, in which to reside, with a wise *King*, gifted by the Lord with exceeding *wisdom*, with a Kingdom of wealth, and a perfect Temple of Worship *designed* by God, they were certainly in a happy condition, and Solomon, with a wise heart, counselled them to obedience in all the commandments of Israel's God, and *warning* them of the dire *penalties* of a *failure* to do this by reminding them of the *justice* of God, who would certainly allow their enemies to despoil them and utterly *destroy* the Temple *and the city*, and again we read that Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the Lord, That 22,000 Oxen and 120,000 sheep were sacrificed, and "So the King and all the children of Israel *dedicated* the House of the Lord." A great feast was then inaugurated that continued for

14 days, and at the close of the feast the people were dismissed from the Temple Court, and a great *joy* and *content* was in the *hearts* of the *people* and their *King*. We next find that the Ninth Chapter is the record of an interview of King Solomon with the Lord, in which the Lord told him in expressed terms of the future condition of his Kingdom. "And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication that thou hast made before me. I have hallowed this house which thou hast built to put my name there *forever*, and mine *eyes* and mine *heart* shall be there *perpetually*, and if thou wilt walk before me as David thy father walked in integrity of *heart* and in uprightness to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt *keep my statutes* and my judgments, Then I will *establish* the throne of thy Kingdom upon Israel forever, as I promised to David thy father. But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes, which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them, then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them, and *this house* which *I have hallowed for my name* will I cast out of my sight, and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people." By these words of warning, we find that the Lord expected the Kingdom of Israel to remain loyal to Him, and that he pronounced a certain punishment upon

their neglect of His Orders or a refusal to yield Obedience to Him implicitly, and the succeeding History of Israel and the *Temple* is mournful evidence of the *failure* even of Solomon to continue faithfully in the service of God, for the record tells the careful reader, "That Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, and the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel. Wherefore the Lord said unto Solomon, for as much as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the Kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it, But I will rend it out of the hand of thy son," and the Lord kept His promise in this case, as he did in all things, "And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father, and Rehoboam his son, reigned in his stead." The Lord had also said to Ahijah that one tribe should remain loyal to Rehoboam his son, and it was because of a certain purpose, "And unto his son will I give *one tribe*, That *David* my servant may have *a light* always before me in *Jerusalem*," and the events which followed the death of Solomon, and the accession of Rehoboam to the throne, proved the truth of the portending disruption of the Kingdom. The petition of Jeroboam to be forgiven was unheeded, and the coun-

sel of the *Old Men* of Solomon's Reign was forsaken by Rehoboam, and the result was precisely as the Lord had said by the lips of Ahijah, "There was none that followed the House of *David* but the tribe of *Judah* only." This was the beginning of the End. Ten Tribes of Israel revolted and enlisted under the standard of Jeroboam and *One Tribe*, The Tribe of *Judah*, remained firm in loyalty to King Rehoboam the son of *Solomon*, the son of *David*, of the Tribe of *Judah*. The Tribe of *Judah* had been specially blessed by the *Patriarch! Israel*, upon his deathbed, had uttered these *prophetic* words: "The *Sceptre* shall not depart from *Judah*, nor a law-giver from between his feet until *Shiloh come.*" (Genesis, 49th Chap.) This was the *Tribal Light* which God had said should *remain in Jerusalem*, and it was because of this fact, That while Ten Tribes were disaffected and turned away in mutinous revolution, and gave their allegiance to Jeroboam and the worship of Idols. *Judah*, *The Lion Tribe*, remained firm and immovable in its adherence to the *Decrees* of the Lord God of *Israel*. But even Judah turned away from the service of the Lord, which is another example of the frailty of human hearts and resolutions. "And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, for they also built them high places, and images, and groves on every high hill, and under every green

tree, and it came to pass, in the fifth year of King *Rehoboam*, that Shishak, King of Egypt, came up against Jerusalem, and he *took away* the *treasures* of the House of the Lord, and the treasures of the King's house, and *he took away* all the shields of gold which Solomon had made; and Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David." This is the first and startling announcement of the punishment of Israel for their defection from the Lord. For as the Lord had spoken His *established* Word which was to be eternally *unchangeable*, So he allowed the Kingdom of Israel to be plundered by Shishak the King of Egypt, *because* of His stern *decree* to King *Solomon*, as to the *only* condition whereby peace and prosperity could be maintained, and the *sternness* of the Lord was terribly demonstrated by the coming of *Shishak the Egyptian King*. Israel was again overpowered by her ancient enemy, and the people of *Judah* seemed to have become demoralized, and although there were exceptional cases of Kings like *Josiah* and *Asa*, who lived up to the *law* of God according to their *ability*, yet the majority of the people were idolaters in *heart*, and they supplemented their idolatry with a careless *administration* of even the common laws for the welfare of the people, and seemed to utterly disregard the law of *God*. The Ark of God was *still* in the *Temple*, and the *Book* of the *Law* was *still in its side*, But Israel was divided and *Judah*

was *alone* until a time when the Syrian Army threatened the peace of Israel, and *Ahab* King of Israel sent to Jehoshaphat the King of *Judah*, and *Jehoshaphat made peace* with the King of Israel. But there was a curious event which happened during the reign of *Ahaz*, in the year 739, B. C., which is *recorded* in the Sixteenth Chapter of Second Kings, "And King Ahaz *cut off* the borders of the *Bases*, and removed the *Laver* from off them; and *took down the Sea* from off the brazen *Oxen* that were under it, and put it upon a *pavement* of *stones*." And the strange and almost incredible fact, which is thus recorded, discloses a terrible deed of sacrilege. The beautiful *Temple*, built by the command of *God*, and *dedicated* to *Him* by *Solomon*, *King of Israel*, *of the tribe of Judah the Lion*, which was even *spared* by *Shishak*, who simply took the treasure, was *mutilated* by the reckless hand of *Ahaz the King* of the tribe and lineage of *Judah*, and consequently a blood relative of the royal family of the *Davidic* line, yet it was *his hand* that was the instrument of the willful mutilation of the work of the Lord, which was embodied in the brazen *Laver* and the *Sea*, and *he* was the *first* to perform an act which would cause a *change* in the *Temple worship*, from the *Adoration* of the *true* God to the worship of idols, for by his *removal* of the Sea of brass from the *Oxen* which supported it, he simply *removed* with one stroke the *supporting* power of the Temple *Sacrifice*,

for as the Sea *rested* upon the Animals of brass, and the Oxen *represented* the beast of special *sacrifice*, so by his removal of the *Oxen* from beneath the brazen Sea, King Ahaz *typified* the *removal* of the sacrificial blessings of forgiven Sin, and the Record tells us that "Ahaz slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David, and *Hezekiah* his son reigned in his stead." In the year 726, B. C., Hezekiah the son of Ahaz ascended the throne of *Judah*, and of all the Kings in the long line of the Hebrew Monarchy, there is not one man that lived nearer to the Lord, or one who was more singularly blessed by God, than this same Hezekiah. We are told that "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord." According to all that David his father did, "He removed the high places, and Broke the images, and cut down the groves, and Broke in pieces the *Brazen Serpent* which *Moses had made*, For unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense unto it, and *he called it* Nehushtan (a piece of brass). He *trusted* in the Lord God of Israel, for he clave to the Lord, and departed not from following *Him*, but kept His Commandments which the Lord commanded *Moses*; and the Lord was with him, and he prospered whithersoever he went forth, and he rebelled against the King of Assyria, and served him not." This plain record of the disposition of Hezekiah is wonderful in many respects, because it

brings us face to face with facts that are *known* to History by means of Assyrian *Books of Stone* or *Rolls of Clay*, which were written on both sides, baked in ovens, and can be read *to-day* in the great British Museum, as a proof of History, that the *Record* of the *Hebrews*, as given in the *Bible*, can be as accurately *proved* by careful *examination* of the *Tablet Rolls* of Assyria in times contemporaneous with the life of *Hezekiah* as the History of any nation in the known world, and for this reason we pause at the Eighteenth Chapter of Second Kings. Before this time the Records are very peculiarly *Hebraic* in quality of information imparted, but now the *light*, the great light of contemporaneous History is merged into the glowing flame of Inspiration, and we find ourselves no longer wandering in the half-toned shadow of suppositious presumption of facts, but *lighted* by the twin flames of *Hebrew Inspiration* and *Historic Fact*, proved by the material articles that are perfect answers within themselves to all questioning upon this vast subject, the honest inquirer for the literal *truth* of the Word of God will find himself "*Encompassed* with a great cloud of *Witnesses*."

And so we find the King of Judah, honest, earnest Hezekiah, laboring with his people to restore, if it were possible, "The Old Paths and Ancient Landmarks" of The Lord, and not only did he completely destroy the images and groves of his idolatrous

father, but he saw that the people were making a false use of the Serpent of Brass! and he was determined to destroy idolatry at any cost, even the destruction of that work of Moses, if it led the people astray, and it was for this reason that Hezekiah destroyed the Brazen Serpent. We also read that in order to appease the wrath of the King of Assyria, "He cut off the Gold" from the Temple Doors and sent it to that King as the price of peace. But the *Bible* and the *Records* of Assyria are unanimously *agreed* upon the very sudden culmination of the Battle that ensued, for 185,000 *men* of Assyria were encamped against Israel at *Nightfall*, and every one of them were *Corpses* before the morning light. As the Angel of the Lord wielded his terrible sword of death during the awful night in *Egypt* before the Exodus, so He had swept the ranks of the army of Assyria. And, as *Moses*, *Aaron*, and *Miriam* rang the Timbrel of Victory and sang *the great* Hebrew "*Hallel*" upon the Arabian shore of the Egyptian Sea, so Hezekiah offered up a prayer of Thanksgiving for his relief and timely deliverance in the hour of great *danger*. The Prophet *Isaiah* was the close friend of Hezekiah, and it was to him, as the prophet of the Lord, that a stern message was sent from the mouth of *Jehovah*, God of Israel, "And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord. Behold, the days are come that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid

up in store unto this day, shall be carried into *Babylon*. Nothing shall be left, saith the Lord." God had borne patiently with the people, but as Hezekiah had unwisely been tempted to show his remaining treasures, in the presence of *strangers* from *Babylon* (2nd Kings, 22nd chap.), it was a certainty that the King of that country would try to obtain possession of them, and Isaiah foretold in *exact* words the certain *fate* which was to overwhelm the City and the *Temple* of Jerusalem. And Hezekiah accepted this *decree* of God, and said, "Good is the word of the Lord, which thou hast spoken, if *peace* and *truth* be in my days; and Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and *Manasseh* his son reigned in his stead."

Manasseh seems to have taken a directly opposite course from that of his father, for we read that "He built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he reared up Altars to *Baal*, and made a grove as did Ahab, and worshipped all the host of Heaven and served them." And we find that after a reign of wickedness he also "Slept with his fathers, and *Amon* his son reigned in his stead." *Amon* followed in the footsteps of his father Manasseh, and before he had reigned two years, and at the age of Twenty-four, "He did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, and he walked in all the way that his father walked in, and served the idols that his father served, and worshipped them." Amon

was *killed* through a conspiracy of his own servants, "and he was buried in his sepulchre, in the garden of Uzza! and *Josiah* his son reigned in his stead." *Now* begins a History that is replete with thought for the meditative mind, for we read, "*Josiah* was Eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned Thirty and One years *in Jerusalem*, and he did that which was *right* in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of *David* his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left."

And we also find that after nearly 10 years of rulership that "In the Eighteenth year of *King Josiah*, The King sent *Shaphan the Scribe* to the House of the Lord, saying, Go up to *Hilkiah* the high priest, that he may sum the silver, which is brought into the House of the Lord, which the *keepers* of the door have gathered of the people, and let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work that have the oversight of the house of the Lord, to *repair* the breaches of the house unto Carpenters, and Builders, and *Masons:* and to buy *Timber* and *Hewn Stone*, to repair the house." It will be noticed that this act of *Josiah* was not enforced upon him by the pressure of Divine power, but that it seemed to emanate from a heart that was ever desirous of serving the Lord in the repairing of His Temple. And it will also be noticed that God used this very act of Josiah to please Him, as a means of placing His *Law!* once more before His neg-

lectful People. "And *Hilkiah the High Priest* said unto *Shaphan the scribe*, I have *found the Book of the Law in the House of The Lord.* And Hilkiah gave the Book to *Shaphan*, and he *read it*, and Shaphan the scribe came to the King and said, Thy Servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work that have the oversight of the House of the Lord. And Shaphan, the scribe, shewed the King, saying, Hilkiah the Priest hath delivered me *a Book!* and Shaphan read it before the *King.* And when the King had heard the words of *The Book of The Law* he sent his clothes, and the King commanded *Hilkiah* the Priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the King's, saying, Go ye, enquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all *Judah* concerning the words of *this Book* that is found, for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us; because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of *this Book*, to do *according* unto all that which *is written* concerning us." *This!* is a most important *fact* for us to consider, as it is the complete *Record* of the first instance of *The Book of The Law* which had been *written* by Moses, and had been *placed* in the Ark of God, being *Removed* from the Ark. And we also find that after King Josiah had *listened* to the solemn and awful sentence of the *pun-*

ishment of the people in the event of their *disobedience*, beginning in the warning words, "Hear, O Israel, Thou shalt have no other gods before *me*," Josiah realized the fearful doom of his people, and the terrible import of the *Book* of God's Law, and trembled for the fate of his people, because of their idolatry and the repeated violation of the commands of God. The next step of King Josiah was to send the *five men* to the *Temple* to inquire of the Lord and of the people of the tribe of *Judah* concerning the words of *this Book*, Because he was convinced that the Lord was Angry with the people who had disobeyed *His Law*. He knew also that a terrible fate was in store for the people of Israel and Judah. And again we must notice the *first* recorded instance of a *systematic* attempt of a *King* and his people being instituted for the purpose of *Atonement* for a past neglect of duty to the Lord by the direct agency of the *Book* of God's Law, and it is also a noticeable fact that *the Book* of the Law was *kept in the Ark* and *hidden* from the eyes of men for more than 800 years, or from the time that the law was *written by Moses* and *placed* in the side of the Ark by the Levites at his command in the year 1451, B. C., until the time that *Hilkiah* the high Priest, *found* the law and delivered it to *Shaphan* in the reign of King Josiah, in the year of 641, B. C., a period of 810 years. Guarded by *Divine Providence*, amid even the wars which from time to time had de-

vastated the City of David, *Hidden* from the sight of victorious Shishak, *Safe* in the ancient *Ark* which *God* had built for *this very purpose*, *Hidden* in the Ark of God, while *Babylonians*, with greedy eyes, were invoicing the treasures of the *Outer* Temple under the direction of the pious, but short-sighted Hezekiah, God had *kept it* by his ever watchful, all-seeing *Eye*, safe in *His Ark* of *strength*, *Hidden* until the special moment, when in the midst of confusion and shame, which was mingled with *repentance* and a *desire* to live better lives, the King and his people were surprised by the statement, "*I have found the Book of the Law in the House of the Lord.*" This is a fact that should be kept in memory by all *Masons*, for as in the course of time and natural circumstance, National History *repeats* itself, and as in the development of Nature, the Past is constantly reproduced *by* and *in* the Present, so in *Masonry*. We find that *Masonic Law* has ever *repeated* itself in the great and sacred mysteries which must *ever* distinguish the *Order* from everything else upon earth. But in continuing the research of the men appointed by King Josiah, we find by referring to the *Bible* that they went to a prophetess by the name of *Huldah*. "And she said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the Lord, Behold I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of *the Book*, which the King of

Judah hath read, because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched, but to the King of Judah, which sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord, I also have heard thee; Behold, therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace, and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place; and they brought the King word again." The result of the inquiry and the answer of the Lord was a determined and successful effort to stamp out idolatry with a heavy hand, and after this had been fully completed, Josiah called the attention of the people to the neglected observance of the Passover Night. "And the King commanded all the people, saying, Keep the Passover unto the Lord your God, *as it is written in the Book of this Covenant.*" But although Josiah was an earnest servant of God, still the City of Jerusalem was captured by the Egyptians after his death, and the land was subjected to tribute of Silver and tribute of Gold, and by this arrangement the Kingdom of Judah was reduced to a Province of Egypt, and the Lord had fulfilled His Word of the Covenant. "And the Lord

said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city, Jerusalem, which I have chosen." They had disobeyed, and must now surrender their Temple and their City, and we now come to the *last* of the *Kings of Judah*, and to the *End* of the *Kingdom* of *Judah* and the entire destruction of the *Temple*. We have seen the steady decline of the *Morality* and the religion of the people of God, and have traced their various leaders from the days of *Moses* to the days of *Josiah*, and at his death and after the death of his wicked son *Jehoahaz*, in the land of Egypt, a Captive King, and the placing upon the throne of *Judah*, already tottering upon the brink of ruin, *Elihakim*, also son of Josiah, but who occupied his throne by Egyptian authority, whose very name was changed by Egypt's King to *Jehoiakim*. The wealth that still remained in the treasury of Judah was collected and given to Egypt, and after a servile reign of eight years under the dictation of Egypt's King, *Pharaoh-Nechoh*, "*Nebuchadnezzah* King of *Babylon*, came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years, then he turned and rebelled against him, and the Lord sent against him Bands of the *Chaldees*, and Bands of the *Syrians*, and Bands of the *Moabites*, and Bands of the Children of *Ammon*, and sent them against *Judah* to Destroy it according to the word of the Lord, which He spake by his servants the Prophets, for the

sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did, and also for the innocent blood which he shed, for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood which the Lord would not pardon. So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead, and the King of Egypt came not any more out of his land, for the King of Babylon had taken from the River of Egypt to the River Euphrates all that pertained to the King of Egypt." Here, in a few plain words, we have the History of the Rise of *Assyria* and the Fall of *Egypt*, and the state of abject slavery to which the once powerful Kingdom of Israel had now surely fallen, first conquered by Egypt and then by the Assyrian King, and still we read that the slave King Jehoiachin "did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord," and after eight years of slavery and wickedness, the time came that God had set for the *Destruction of the Temple* and the City of Jerusalem. "At *that* time, (the year 599, B. C.), the servants of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, came up against Jerusalem, and the City was besieged, and Jehoiachin the King of Judah, went out to the King of Babylon, he and his mother, and his servants, and his Princes, and his Officers, and the King of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign." This was at last *the End Forever* of the Kingdom of Judah as a *national* Power upon the earth. The surrender of Jehoiachin with all the Royal Household was the cul-

mination of the Fall of the proud House of *Judah*, for although the Royal Family still kept up the semblance of superiority and *kept the Record* of the petty beings who from time to time should ascend the Ruined Throne of Judah, yet the glory of *David* and of *Solomon* had departed nevermore to return, for not only did the King of Babylon carry away the King and the Captives of Judah, but he also *carried into Babylon* the Treasures of the *Temple*, and this was more than had ever been done before in all the shameful fall of the great Kingdom of Judah. The King's House had been robbed, the Temple Treasuries of Gold and Silver had been repeatedly emptied by successive Conquerors, but the Temple of the Lord, that *sacred* building of *20 Cubits square* in the *East* of the Massive Temple, had *never* been molested until the time of the *End*. "And he carried out thence all the Treasures of the House of the Lord, and the Treasures of the King's House, and cut in pieces all the vessels of Gold which Solomon King of Israel had made in the Temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said." This was a terrible blow to the great Kingdom of Judah. The *eyes* of the Babylonian *visitors* of Hezekiah's reign had *seen* the vast amount of "Gold by weight." which adorned the *inner* Temple for the use of the *Ceremonial* that God had told Solomon to strictly observe, and now the inevitable *Result* that had been predicted by Isaiah had come to pass, and

the Glory of the Temple of the God of Israel was passed forevermore. The *Light* which Samuel the Temple Child had carefully attended under the supervision of the aged Priest Eli, the sacred *flame* that for four centuries had been the constant care of *Priest* and *Levite* to preserve from even partial extinguishment, was now forever darkened. The Golden *Altar*, before which the *Wisest* King in the world's history had reverently *bowed* his Royal Head was removed from its sacred place, and the Temple was *ruined*, but still the utter *Destruction* had *not* been accomplished, for again we read, "And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the Princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even 10,000 captives, and all the *Craftsmen*, and Smiths, none remained save the poorest sort of the people of the land, and all the men of might, even Seven Thousand, and *Craftsmen* and Smiths *a Thousand*. All that were strong and apt for war the King of Babylon brought *Captive to Babylon*, and the King of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother King in his stead, and changed his name to *Zedekiah*, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem, and he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, for through the anger of the Lord it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah until he had cast them out from His Presence, and it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar King of

Babylon came he and all his host against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it, and the City was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah, and on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the City, and there was no bread for the people of the land, and the City was broken up, and the Army of the Chaldees pursued after the King and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army were scattered from him. So they took the King and brought him up to the King of Babylon at Riblah, and they gave judgment upon him, and they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of Brass, and carried him to Babylon, and in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, came *Nebuzar-Adan*, Captain of the Guard, a servant of the King of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and he *Burnt* the House of the Lord, and the King's House, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great man's house burnt he with fire, and all the Army of the Chaldees that were with the Captain of the Guard Broke down the walls of Jerusalem round about."

This is the History of the melancholy fate that befell the beautiful City of Jerusalem and the great *Temple*. The houses were all burned in a fearful conflagration, and among the buildings was the Tem-

ple of The Lord God of Israel; and while human pen has never written the account of that awful fire, and the human mind cannot conceive of the terrific splendor of the scene upon the great surrounding Mountains "Round about Jerusalem" as the mighty mass of *cedar-lined Masonry*, seasoned by the passage of the Centuries of Worship, dissolved beneath the withering touch of Fire! the all-devouring element of *Destruction*. As the flames enclosed the sacred *heart* of the Temple in the *East!* the *hand of fire* still pointed upward from the *Eastern Temple* to the *Heavens!* that were aglow in the fierce light of the Destroyer! and, as the peaks of Mountain, *Hilltop*, and Mound, regained their natural shape, in accord with the *raising* of the gloomy pall that hung above the ruined City, a *perfume* from the Temple Ruin filled the air with the fragrant *Cedar!* For the hand of the Chaldee Soldiers had but lit the flame, of which *the Temple* was the *Censer*, the *Cedar* was the *Oil*, and the *Perfume* was the sweet *Incense* that ascended up to the sense of the God of Israel, an *Offering* of the Dying Glory in the *Sacrifice of fire!* Great Burnt Offerings had been given, but never in all the History of Temple Worship was such a grand and Costly Offering as the Offering of The *Temple!* Although every house in the City was destroyed, yet the Temple was the *Centre* of attention. A Massive Building 60 cubits long, 20 cubits wide, 30 cubits high, and fronted by a

Porch of the wonderful measurement of 120 cubits in height and running the entire width of The Temple of 20 cubits breadth; *Built* by the hand of the skilled workman of *Tyre.* Truly, it was a mighty edifice, even in those days of gigantic problems of architectural and engineering *skill*, which are sufficient in their intricacy to baffle the brightest minds of the expert Mechanics and *Masons* of this era of learning. And it is this Building, whose *final* ending is of the *greatest* interest to the *Masonic* reader, for it was within *these walls* that the divine *plan* of the *Great Architect* of the Universe were *laid* upon the *trestleboard* of the *Master Mason* of the workmen. It was upon the *mosaic pavement* of the *ground floor* of this wonderful structure that the *Burden Bearer* was taught the "*first step in Masonry,*" and where his mind was first *enlightened* from the darkness of a natural existence by the wonderful brilliance of the great *light* of the *Masonic* Universe. And it was *here*, also, that the *Hewer* of *Cedar* and *Squarer* of *Stone* met the *Master* for a trial of their *proficiency* and *advancement* in the "*second step;*" and *here* it was that the "*passing Hewer*" viewed the giant Brazen *Pillars*, as his duties called for his presence *between* them on his *entrance* to the *inner* Temple; and it was *here* that the *quarry* worker and the Temple *Master met* for consultation and the payment of the *wages* due.

And *here* it was in the *Eastern* Point that *Solomon* the *Master*, had issued his *will and pleasure* in regard to the manner of the Building of The Temple of The Lord. *Here* in the *inner* House He had placed the sacred *Ark*, and it was also *here* that the great *masonic King* had *Kneeled* at the *Altar of Gold*, and in the presence of the *Book* of God's Law had invoked the blessing of God upon himself and upon his loved people Israel. And now Israel is dispersed, and *Judah* is Captive in *Babylon*, Jerusalem! The Golden, The Beautiful, The Peaceful! Torn in shreds by the wanton soldiery, her *Walls* battered down, her beautiful *homes* destroyed, her *people* gone, her streets piled high with the *debris* of happy households now forever *ruined by fire* and war. But still the *Temple*, the House of *God*! will he not protect *that* building? He has protected through the rolling Centuries! Has the Lord God of Israel *forsaken* Jerusalem? *Nebuzar-Adan* enters the Porch, he looks on the beautiful massive *pillars* of brass, he notices the *strength* aud solidity of the metal, his eye lights upon the Chapiters of *Lily* work, *Chain* work and the marvelous *Net* work of *Chains enwreathed about* the Capital; he notices the double row of *Pomegranates* upon the *Lily* work, *Union*, *Strength*, *Prosperity!* Centuries Ago, but not now. Temple of Israel! The Destroyer is upon thee! Nebuzar-Adan turns to the *right*. A Counterpart of the *left hand pillar* is also guarding the *Ruined Door!* His

quick eye notices the wondrous *beauty* and actual value of these *pillars*. They must be *carried to Babylon*, a Trophy of his enterprise. First remove these *Pillars!* then *Destroy* the Temple of God, "And the pillars of Brass that were in the house of the Lord, and the *Bases*, and the Brazen *Sea* that was in the house of the Lord, The *Chaldeans* brake, and carried all the Brass to *Babylon*, the *Caldrons* also, and the *Shovels*, and the *Snuffers*, and the *Bowls*, and the *Spoons*, and *all* the vessels of Brass took they away, and the *Basons*, and the *Fire pans*, and the *Bowls*, and the *Caldrons*, and the *Candlesticks*, and the *Spoons*, and the *Cups*. That which was of Gold, in Gold, and that which was of Silver, in Silver, took the '*Captain of the guard*' away. The two *Pillars*, one *Sea* and twelve brazen *Bulls* that were under the *Bases* which *King Solomon* had made in the house of the Lord. The Brass of all these vessels was without weight." (It will be remembered that the *Oxen* had previously been removed and given away!) "And, concerning the *Pillars*, the height of One Pillar was 18 Cubits, and a *fillet* of 12 cubits did *compass* it, and the Thickness thereof was *4 fingers*; it was *hollow*. And a Chapiter of Brass was upon it, and the *height* of One chapiter was 5 cubits, with *network* and *pomegranates* upon the Chapiters round about, All of Brass! and the Second Pillar also and the *Pomegranates* were *like unto these*. And there were Ninety and Six pomegranates on a

side, and all the pomegranates upon the *Network* were a hundred, round about."

Again, we call the attention of the reader to the accurate *detail* of the Pillars of Brass in the *Porch* of the Temple, and the actual height and perfect description of Ornamentation which was noticed and written by *Jeremiah* the Prophet of God, after the total *Destruction* of the City and the Temple by the great *conflagration* of the year 588 B. C. And, after a complete detailed account of the depopulation of the City by means of an enforced departure *into captivity* of all the people, with the exception of a small *remnant* who were left to till the soil and dress the vines, we read that "*Judah was carried away Captive* out of his own land." And thus the Books of the Kings and the Book of Jeremiah close with a brief history of the last days of the last of the Kings of Judah's ancient lineage in the *Captivity of Babylonia*!

"And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the Captivity of Jehoiachin King of Judah, that *Evil Merodach* King of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin King of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison, and spake kindly unto him, and changed his prison garments, and he did continually eat Bread before him all the days of his life, every day a portion, until the day of his death." This was the saddest terminal of national life and prosperity that ever befell a people in all the

annals of History brought out of *Bondage*, Blessed by the true *God* of Heaven and Earth, Defended by *Angels*, Temple Builders, by a *plan* Given from the mind of *God*, a prosperous and happy people, with a just and wise Ruler, and with every promise of the Infinite *Creator* upon the *One* Condition of Loyalty to *Him*, with a Wealth of Gold and Silver that has never been equaled, with a *Temple* of Worship compared with which the Temple of the Sun at Baal-Bek in Syria is but an atom. The Halls of the Temple of Karnac are but attempts at modeling, and the wonderful Naves and Aisles of the Westminster Abbey of England, of St. Peter's at Rome, of the Parthenon at Athens, of the lovely Taj-Mahal of India, the Temples of Diana, of Minerva, of Apollo, of all the combined *Beauty* of the *Doric*, *Tuscan*, *Ionic*, *Corinthian*, and *Composite* orders of *Architectural Masonry*, *All the Strength*, *Beauty* and *Grace* of the *Architect*, the *Engraver*, the *Carpenter*, the *Designer* were combined in the *unified effort* of *Master Masonry* to weld the *Wisdom*, *Strength*, and *Beauty* of the Tyrian, Egyptian, and Assyrian Art in the construction of that *Perfect Temple* of the *Perfect Deity*, the Lord God *Jehovah*, God of Israel forever, but by the idolatry of His Chosen people, his support was withdrawn, and the literal and complete *Destruction* of the City and the *Temple* was a Result of Disobedience.

CHAPTER V.

THE EASTERN STAR.

The precise date of the destruction of Jerusalem was July, 588, B. C., and for nearly forty years after that time the Hebrew Captives were without hope of ever being released from the King of Babylon. They had no City, their Temple had been destroyed by fire, and all the horrors of the broken *Law* were fully experienced by the unhappy people who were rendered still more miserable by the thought of a former prosperity that had forever passed away, and the gloom and darkness of the years of Captivity were twin shadows that were ever hovering above their hopeless lives. But about the time of 550, B. C., and during the advancement of Cyrus of Persia, (Cyrus 2d,) the horizon of the future was tinted with the roseate hue of the dawn of better days, indeed the kindness of the King to the unfortunate King of *Judah* was an index of the relaxation of the iron grip of Assyrian dominion, and the succeeding events corroborated the frail hope of a possible release from the rule of their enemies. Isaiah had prophesied that a *release* would come to the people of God, and that the City and Temple would be *restored*, and the Kingdom of Israel again be set up *within Jerusalem*, and when Cyrus the

Second King of Persia entered into the Kingdom of *Babylonia*, and took possession of the entire country, the *light* of prophecy increased as the famous Edict of Cyrus was issued by the Persian King. The *Temple* at Jerusalem was ordered to be *rebuilded* under the protectorate of the King of Persia who also was conqueror and King of *Babylonia*, this record is found in the Book of Ezra, "Now in the first year of Cyrus King of Persia, the Lord stirred up the spirit of *Cyrus* King of Persia, that he made a *Proclamation* throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus King of Persia, The Lord God of Heaven hath given me all the Kingdoms of the Earth; and He hath charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? His God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and Build the house of the Lord God of Israel, which is in Jerusalem. And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with Silver, and with Gold, and with Goods, and with Beasts, Besides the Free Will Offering for the House of God which is in Jerusalem.

Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the Priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to Build the house of the Lord, which is in Jerusalem. And all they that were about them strengthened their

hands with vessels of Silver, with Gold, with Goods, and with Beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered. Also Cyrus the King brought forth the vessels of the House of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jerusalem, and had put them in the house of his gods. Even those did Cyrus King of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the Treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the Prince of Judah. And this is the number of them: Thirty chargers of Gold, a Thousand chargers of Silver, Nine and Twenty Knives, Thirty Basons of Gold, Silver Basons of a second sort Four hundred and Ten, and other vessels a Thousand. All the vessels of Gold and of Silver were Five Thousand and Four Hundred. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up *from Babylon to Jerusalem.* The whole congregation together was Forty and Two Thousand three hundred and three score. And when the Seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the Cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to *Jerusalem.* Then stood up Joshua! the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the Priests, and *Zerubbabel* The son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and Builded the *Altar* of The God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God. And they set the Altar upon his Bases: for fear was upon them because

of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto The Lord Morning and Evening. They kept also The Feast of Tabernacles as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required; and afterward offered the continual burnt offering, Both of the *New Moons*, and of all the set feasts of the Lord that were consecrated, and of *every one* that *willingly* offered a *free will* offering unto the Lord. From the first day of the Seventh Month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the Lord. But the foundation of the Temple of the Lord was not yet laid. They gave money also unto the *Masons*, and to the Carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil to them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring *Cedar* trees from *Lebanon* to the Sea of *Joppa*, according to the *grant* that they had of Cyrus King of Persia. Now, in the second year of their coming unto the house of God at Jerusalem, in the Second Month, began *Zerubbabel* and *Joshua*, and the *remnant* of their brethren the *Priests* and the *Levites*, and all they that were *come up* out of the captivity unto Jerusalem, and appointed the Levites, from *Twenty* years old and upwards, to set forward the work of the house of the Lord.

And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, many of the Priests, and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were *ancient* men,

that had *seen* the *First House*, when the foundation of *this* House was *laid* before *their eyes*, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy." It will be remembered that the *First* Temple had been *Destroyed* entirely by fire, and that the *walls* of Jerusalem had been *broken down*, and in consequence the *debris of dust*, *ashes*, and *burned stones* must be *removed*, and the *Ruins* of the *first* Temple must be thoroughly *explored*, and all the obstructions thrown out of the way of the workmen before the first course of the *new* foundation could be properly laid, and when *this* had been accomplished, and the foundation had been laid in the presence of all the people, while they rejoiced in the hope of future prosperity. *This* was in *the year* 535 B. C., and it was two years after the Decree of Cyrus had been issued, which was 537 B. C. The people of the province of *Samaria*, being fearful that the *Hebrews* would regain their lost *Kingdom* and invade their territory *by* force, sent a letter to the King of Persia, who had succeeded Cyrus. The name of this King was *Ahasuerus!* and it was in the year 529 B. C., which was six years after the foundation had been laid by *Joshua* and *Zerubbabel*, and the time had all been employed in *exploring the Ruins* of the *First* Temple, and in removing the enormous masses of charred *material* from the building *site* where many thousands of *trained Masons* had labored for *Seven Years* in the construction of the *great* Temple, and these *later*

workmen were laboring amid the watchful eyes of *enemies* while the *early* temple workers built it in a time of *peace*. And the thoughtful reader will be impressed with the courage which was required, and was possessed by these children of *later* Israel in their almost hopeless task of *Rebuilding* the ruined Temple of the Lord, for they were confronted in the very outset by the *Rubbish* and *Wreckage* of the burned mass of *Stone*, and in the year 522 B. C., or 15 years *after* they had received the decree of *Cyrus* permitting them to rebuild the Temple, they were obliged to desist from their gigantic undertaking by a very peremptory letter from King *Artaxerxes*, who had succeeded King Ahasuerus as the King of Persia. This King had been prevailed upon by the enemies of Judah in Samaria to stop the people of Judah in their attempt to *rebuild* Jerusalem and the temple. "Then *ceased* the work of the House of the Lord, which is at Jerusalem, so it ceased unto the *second year* of the reign of *Darius* King of Persia." This was two years *later*, and thus the work of *restoring* the City and the Temple was delayed until the year 520 B. C., and then the Prophets *Haggai* and *Zachariah* the sons of Iddo, prophesied unto the *Jews* that were in *Judah* and Jerusalem in the name of the Lord God of *Israel* even unto *them*. This was the *first* time since the *Captivity* that *God* had spoken to His people by the word of His *Prophets*. "Then rose

up *Zerubbabel* and *Joshua* the son of Jozadak, and *began to Build* the House of God which is at Jerusalem, and with *them* were the *Prophets of God* helping them." They were beginning again to experience the presence of the *Lord* in the persons of *His Prophets*, and the *Light* was steadily *increasing* when another enemy of *Judah* rose up in the person of *Tatnai*. "At the same time came to them Tatnai Governor on this side the River, and said thus unto them, Who hath commanded you to Build this House and to make up this wall? But the *Eye* of their God was upon the Elders of the Jews that they could not cause them to cease till the matter came to Darius, and then they returned answer *by letter* concerning this matter. The *copy* of this letter that Tatnai the Governor on this side the River sent unto Darius the King: All Peace. Be it known unto the King that we went into the Province of *Judah* to the House of the great *God*, which is builded with *great stones*, and *Timber* is laid *in* the walls, and this work goeth fast on, and prospereth in their hands. Then asked we those Elders and said unto them thus: Who commanded you to build *this* house and to make up these walls? We asked their *names* also to certify thee that we might *write* the names of the men that were the *chief* of them, and thus they returned us answer saying: We are the servants of the God of Heaven and Earth, and build the House that *was* builded these *many*

years ago which a great *King of Israel* Builded *and set up*, but after that our fathers had *provoked* the God of Heaven and Earth unto Wrath he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon, the Chaldean who *destroyed* this house and carried the people away into Babylon. But in the first year of Cyrus the King of Babylon the *same* Cyrus made a decree to build *this* house of God and the vessels also of Gold and Silver of the house of God which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the Temple that was in Jerusalem and brought them into the Temple of Babylon. Those did Cyrus the King *take out* of the Temple of Babylon, and they were delivered unto *one* whose name was *Sheshbazzar* whom he had made governor, and said unto him: Take these vessels, go and carry them into the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the House of God be builded in his place.

Then came the same Sheshbazzar and laid the foundation of the house of God, which is in Jerusalem. And since *that* time, even until now, hath it been in building, and yet it is *not finished.* Now, therefore, if it seem good to the King let there be *search* made, in the King's treasure house which is there at Babylon, whether it be so that a *decree* was made by *Cyrus* the King to Build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the King send his pleasure to us concerning this matter." It will be a great satisfaction to every *Christian Mason* to be certain of *this* fact

in regard to *Masonry*, that the *Bible* is supported, in every single instance of Historic utterance, by actual events *Recorded* by *living* Nations, and by the *literal records* of Nations and Kingdoms that have swayed the World of Men, and in the momentous march through the dim archways of time the deeds of their *great ones* have been faithfully *traced* and sacredly *preserved* in the *Archives* of *National Life and History*, and *these Records* have been *Kept* for *Ages*, after the hands that *wrote* them had mouldered away to dust. It was thus with the King of *Babylon* and *Persia*, the great *Cyrus the Second*, for the *Decree* of the Persian had been transcribed and filed away in the *Archives* of the Kingdom, and remained as silent *witness* of the *plan* to again *restore the Ancient Temple of the God of Israel.*

"Then Darius the King made a decree. And search *was* made in the House of the *Rolls*, where the treasures were *laid up* in *Babylon*, and there was *found* at *Achmetha*, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a *Roll!* and *therein* was a Record, thus written, "In the *first* year of *Cyrus* the King, the *same* Cyrus the King *made a decree* concerning the house of the Lord at *Jerusalem*. *Let the house be builded* in the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the *foundations* thereof *be strongly laid*, the *height* thereof threescore Cubits, and the *breadth* thereof threescore Cubits, with three rows of great *stones* and a row of *New*

Timber, and let the *Expenses* be given out of the *King's* house. And also let the golden and silver vessels of the House of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon to be restored and brought again unto the temple which is at *Jerusalem*, every one to his place, and *place* them in the house of God. Now, therefore, Tatnai! governor beyond the River, Shethar Boznai, and your *companions*, the Apharsachites which are beyond the River, be ye far from thence! Let the work of this house of God alone, let the governor of the Jews and the Elders of the Jews build *this house of God in his place.* I, Darius, have made a decree! *let it be done with speed.*" This decree of the great Darius was the *legal* document that was the result of the *search* among the Decrees of Cyrus the Persian, for the laws and decrees of the Medes and Persians were *unalterable*! And thus the Jews were more secure than ever by the re-enforcement of the *original* decree by Darius the Median, and by its *authority* the toilers of the *new* temple were encouraged and their enemies silenced. "And they Builded and *finished* it according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes King of Persia. And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the King."

In the year 457 B. C. there was a *visitor* from *Babylon* by the name of *Ezra*, and we read that he was "*a Ready Scribe*, and that the hand of his God was upon him; that he was the grandson of Hilkiah the Priest, who had found the Book of the Law, in the days of King Josiah, and by Birth and family right he was not only a Scribe, but was also a *Priest* of the special tribe of *Levites*. And after the receipt of a letter of commission from King Artaxerxes, he started at once for Jerusalem, leaving *Babylon* on the first day of the first month, and arriving in *Jerusalem* on the first day of the fifth month, thus traveling a four months' journey. He was a man who had *prepared his heart* to seek the Law of the Lord. And by a special *decree* of *Artaxerxes* all the people of *Judah* were allowed to *leave* Babylon and go to *Jerusalem*, and it is a wonderful fact that although the Ark of the Covenant had been forever *lost* amid the fiery ruins of the *first* Temples till there was *one man* who had *copied the Law*, and had preserved it even in the land of Babylonia. And of this man *Ezra!* the record tells us that "Ezra was a ready Scribe in the *Law of Moses*, which the Lord God of Israel had given him, for Ezra had *prepared* his heart to seek the *law* of the Lord and to *do it*, and to *teach* in Israel *statutes* and *judgments*." Now *this* is a *Copy* of the letter that the King Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the *Priest*, the *Scribe*, even a Scribe of the words of the *commandments* of

the *Lord* and of *His statutes to Israel.*" *This* was a wonderful fact, that though the Tables of *Stone* were irrevocably *lost*, yet Ezra the Scribe possessed a *Copy of the Ten Commandments*, and the statutory *laws* of the *Book of the Law* that was *written* by Moses and *found* in the Ark by Hilkiah, who was the Grand Sire of Ezra the Priest and ready Scribe. And we have another proof of this same fact in this declaration that Artaxerxes made to all the people, and the letter which he wrote and gave to Ezra the Scribe authorizing him to *teach the Law of God.* And this was a Decree which can *still* be deciphered upon the *Tablets* and *Rolls* of the *Assyrian Kingdom*, and are carefully *preserved* among the Ancient *Testimonials* as to the accuracy of the *Bible*, which are *treasured up* in the *Archæologic Museums* of the *science of Anthropology*, and *can be read to-day* by the *student and Master of Ancient History.*

The *Bible* also gives a *Copy* of the Decree of Artaxerxes in regard to the *Validity* of Ezra's commission and *ability to teach the Written Law of God* to the people of Jerusalem. "Artaxerxes King of Kings unto Ezra the Priest, a Scribe of the Law of the God of Heaven, perfect peace, I make a Decree. Forasmuch as thou art *sent* of the King, and of his *Seven Counsellors*, to inquire concerning *Judah* and Jerusalem, according to the *law* of thy God which is in *thine* hand; and thou, Ezra, after the *wisdom* of thy God, that

is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the *laws* of thy God; and *teach ye them* that know them not." This was a very important commission for Ezra to fulfill, for this reason: The former temple builders were in possession of the Ark of the Covenant of the God of Israel, and it was in the tabernacle of *David* during all the *seven years* of the Building of the Temple, but now it was *destroyed*, and it was an uncertainty as to whether the Lord would even recognize or accept the offering of a people that had lost His favor by their disobedience. There was but little encouragement for Ezra, for even his claims as a Scribe rested principally upon the fact that he had *Copied the Law of God*, and his authority as a teacher of these laws was now dependent upon the written decree of a human King, and he a foreigner, and at one time an enemy by nature to the Hebrew people, but in the face of all the discouraging aspects of his mission Ezra the Priest the Scribe *traveled to Jerusalem*, taking four months for the journey, and when he arrived in the City the first condition of the people that he seems to have specially noticed was the relations that existed between the Hebrew families. He saw that the people of Judah had departed from the ancient *law* by marriage with other Nations, and thus having women among them that were not of the people of the Hebrew race. This

he called attention to by reference to the forgotten *law* of God, and after regulating this matter as best he could by calling for a *separation* of those who had not violated this law from those who had done so, he proceeded to *instruct* the people in the duties of their positions, and urged a rigid *adherence* to the *law* as it had been *spoken* by the Lord, and the record says: "All the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate, and they spake unto Ezra the Scribe to bring the *Book* of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel, and Ezra the Priest brought the law before the congregation, both of men and women, and all that could *hear* with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month, and he *read therein* before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday before the men and the women and those that could understand, and the ears of all the people were *attentive* unto the *Book of the Law*, and Ezra the Scribe *stood* upon a pulpit of *wood*, which they had made for the purpose, and Ezra opened the *Book* in the sight of all the people, and when he opened it all the people *stood up*, and Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people *answered Amen, Amen!* with *lifting up their hands*, and they *bowed* their heads and *worshipped the Lord* with their faces to the ground. Also *Joshua* and the *Levites* caused the people to understand the law, and

the people *stood* in their place, and *Nehemiah*, which is the Tirshatha (Governor), and Ezra the Priest Scribe and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people: This Day is Holy unto the Lord your God, mourn not, nor weep, for all the people wept when they heard the words of the law, and on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the Priests and the Levites unto Ezra the Scribe to understand the words of the *law*, and they *found written in the law* which the Lord had commanded by *Moses*, that the children of Israel should dwell in Booths in the feast of the seventh month, and that they should publish and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, *saying:* Go forth unto the *mount* and fetch Olive branches, and Pine branches, and Myrtle branches, and *Palm* branches, and branches of thick trees, to make Booths as it is *written.* (Leviticus, 23d Chap.)

So the people went forth and brought them and made themselves Booths; every one upon the roof of his house, and in their courts, and in the courts of the House of God, and in the street of the watergate, and in the street of the gate of Ephraim. And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the *captivity* made Booths, and sat under the Booths, for since the days of *Joshua* the son of Nun unto that day had not the children of Israel done so, and there was very great gladness. Also Day by Day,

from the first day unto the last day, he read in the *Book of the law of God*, and they kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly." This wonderful attempt of the people to secure the favor of the Lord was followed by a still more wonderful effort. A solemn Fast was proclaimed, and the people made an open confession of their condition and their sinful lives, and while acknowledging the justice of the fate which had overtaken them and repenting bitterly the history of the past, they prayed to be forgiven, and *voluntarily* made a *new Covenant*, which was sealed by their *Princes*, *Priests*, and *Levites*, and *a record* of those who affixed their *names* to the Covenant *can be found* in the 10th Chap. of the Book of *Nehemiah*. And in the last chapters of this Book of Nehemiah we read that the people made every possible effort to please the Lord, but without securing the wished for blessing of His Holy Presence in the temple which they had built for his worship. At the *dedication* of the *Solomonic* Temple the Ark of the Lord was present, and *God* had directed the *work* in His own person by the Presence of the *Cloud* upon the Ark of God. But *after* the Covenant had been violated by Kings and people, the *Cloud* of God was withdrawn from the Ark of God, the *Temple* was robbed of its sacred treasures, the *Altar* of Gold was removed by impious hands, the *Pillars* of the Porch were *broken* and *carried away*, and at last, when the

national wickedness had absorbed them in one community of Idolaters, *God* retired from them. The Ark was lost, its mission was ended. The Temple was Burnt, and the walls of *Jerusalem* were broken and burnt, and although *Nehemiah* and *Ezra*, by the noblest efforts, sought to obtain the coveted blessing of the Lord, and while the firm determination and steady courage of *Zerubbabel* and *Joshua* endeavored to replace the ruined Temple of God by another built by repentant children of the tribe of Judah. So the *Covenant* they tried to establish was a human idea built upon ruined hope and broken promises that were never to be forgotten by a *just* and discriminating God. This was the real condition of the chosen people of God in the year of 433 B. C., and it is a semi-darkness in comparison with the *Captivity of Judah in Babylon*, but still the *light* of the forgiveness of God had not yet appeared to gladden the hearts of the waiting people, and in the year 367 B. C., (or 66 years later,) we find that *Joshua* was killed by his Brother *in the Temple*, and from *that* time until the days of Judas Maccabeus, (who was surnamed "*The Hammerer*," because of the fury of his onslaughts and the indomitable bravery of his acts of war). There was a constant overturning of the City and the Temple. Assaulted in turn by the victorious armies of King Alexander, (the Grecian Thunderbolt,) in the year 332, B. C., and again by the Egyptian Monarch,

who was Ptolemy Soter I., in the year of 320 B. C., and still again by the Roman-Antiochus III. of Syria in the year 226, B. C. And History informs us that the *Temple* Vessels were Sold to Menelaus at an auction Sale of Bribes in 172 B. C,, and again Menelaus was defeated by Jason in 168. B. C., until the magnificent Defense of the Temple by the aged Priest Mattathias and his devoted sons was merged into the fearful Battle of Beth-horan in 167, B. C., when "Judas the Hammerer" the great Son of the brave old Priest Mattathias, Drove the enemies of *Judah* into utter rout and overwhelming Defeat. Then the Temple of God was in the hands of Lysias with a force of 65,000 men; but Judas the Splendid the iron-handed Hammerer, with an inferior number, but also with invincible courage and Iron Will Power, *Entered Jerusalem*, and dislodging the enemies of God's people from within the walls of the sacred City Sets the mailed foot of *Judah's* Soldier upon the ringing pavement of the *outer Court*, and marches with determined step within the Temple *Gates*. The Sacred Vessels were rescued and *replaced* in the presence of the Armed Soldiers of the great "*Hammerer*" of the Tribe of *Judah*, for as *David* was the *shepherd* King, as *Ezra* was the *Priestly* Scribe, as *Solomon* was the Royal *Master*, so *Judas* was the *Warrior* Priest; and under the stern *eye* of "The Hammerer," who ordered the cleansing of the Temple and its Re-

Dedication to the service of God while stern-faced Soldiers of Judah, with *Blades* of tempered steel, *Guarded* the *Priests* and the *Book of the Law*, and so the feast of the *Re-Dedication* was instituted in the year 166, B. C., and Judas Maccabeus was the Champion of Judah and the people's rights with a *Constitution* of Law written with a Sword upon the History of Jerusalem. But at the Battle of Eleasa in 161, B. C., the tide of fortune turned upon the people of *Judah.* Judas, with his minor force of brave hearted determined *Sons of Judah*, Resisted the opposing Armies of their ancient enemy Syria unto the very death. Judas was killed, and as the great Maccabean fell, his naked sword crimsoned with the blood of the enemies of the tribe of Judah, the flaming *Light* that seemed to have gained ascendancy through the herculean efforts and unconquerable Will of the Soldier-Priest was suddenly dimmed and nearly extinguished in the hearts of the expectant people by the Battle Sacrifice of the Noble Maccabean, and again the clouds of darkness began to gather in an awful sombre pall of impenetrable hopelessness, and when in the year of 63, B. C., the Roman Pompey trod the sacred floor of the *Holy of Holies*, "Walking rough shod where Angels fear to tread," the people of Jerusalem recoiled in horror, as 12,000 of the Men of Hebrew Blood were massacred in the Temple of God; in the year of 40, B. C., Herod, by the good will of Octavian and

Antony, was decreed by the Roman Senate as the King of Judea, and in the year 37, B. C., after a frightful carnage of a siege of six months, Herod enters the City of Jerusalem, and after building a Theater in that city and an Amphitheater at Jericho, he remodeled the temple in the year 18, B. C., and to show the awful state of affairs during the administration of Herod in the year 4, B. C., we find that two Jewish Rabbis were burnt alive for objecting to the placing of the *Golden Eagle* over the gate of the temple; the Eagle was the Symbol of Rome, and the Rabbis naturally opposed the placing of a Human Emblem of power upon a temple *dedicated* to the worship of Israel's God. This is the history of the *three temples* that were built in the name of the *Lord God of Israel* from the time of *Solomon* until the days of *Herod*, and in all that time of years of intermittent Hope and Despair, *Faith* and Idolatry, *Peace* and War, *Clouded* by Disobedience, Obscured by the Avarice and *Passion* of frail Humanity, seemingly lost in the *Captivity of Babylon*, and forever extinguished in the Tyranny of the Roman Power, still there was a *Light*, a steady, clear, and penetrating *Light* that was steadily advancing toward the *Zenith* of the celestial *arch* that spanned the Universe of God above their heads, for while the armed forces of national avarice and ambition were grappling with Victory and Death upon the battlefields of the semi-civil-

ized world, while Egyptian, Assyrian, Grecian and Roman were contesting for supremacy of Rule and accession of Territory, a Master Force was developing, while the chosen people of the Most High God of Heaven and Earth were bowing before the Calf in the wilderness, while chosen Kings of Israel were demonetizing their treasuries and debauching their Spiritual and Mental powers of perceptive *Reason*, while a Temple that God had built in wonderful perfection from a Divine plan of Architecture had been surrendered piecemeal to His Foes, while a captive band of broken-hearted people of *Judah* were lamenting their fate by the streams of *Babylon* with the Harps that rang with the sweet notes of glorious *Hebrew Melodies hung idly upon the willows, while the earnest pleadings of *Nehemiah* and his subsequent release and *Reconstruction* of the Temple was in process of fulfillment during the great convocation of the people in Jerusalem, while Ezra the Priest-Scribe for Seven Days consecutively read to the great Assembly from the *Book* of the Law, During the 400 succeeding years of alternate possession and loss of City and Temple by the people to whom it belonged by the word of God through His Prophets, while 12,000 Men of Hebrew blood were slain in defense of the *restored* Temple and City in the terrible massacre that was perpetrated by the Romans under the leadership

*Byron

of the brutal Pompey, whose barbarian foot knew not respect for a Temple of Worship of the *True* God, and while Teachers were burned alive by the order of a usurper who was kept in power by the government of Rome because of their *fidelity* to the *ancient faith* of Israel's God, through all the varied lights and shades of the life of human endeavor in the onward struggle and vain hope of solving Life's Mystery and Death's Secret, there was a Ray of *Light* as clear and radiant as the pearls of sunlight reflected in the golden setting of a shower in the time of Sunset, a *Light* so pure and true to the grand principles of Nature in the elevated strata of her *stellar* kingdom that in obedience to the great *Designer* that it began its journey of ever increasing radiance, and left the glorious region of its birth-place in the Central sphere of the great Universe of *Plenetary Stellar* and *Solar* systems to *travel* onward, downward, earthward, *Eastward*, crossing the path-way of blazing Planets, whose Continents and Oceans had long since ceased to exist, and whose very forms were being dissolved in the fierce crucibles of their flaming Orbits of Atmospheric Conflagration. Still onward amid the crash of exploding Meteors and melting Nebulae that flashed a scintillating tempest of Asteroids, Meteorites and *Comets* into the bound-less expanse of Aerial plateaus of Ethereal Atmos-phere. Still Onward and Downward till the beauteous

shaft of Starry *Light* is flashed across the far off Worlds of Jupiter and Mars; Saturn, with its *endless Circle* of transparent rings of interwoven glory is lighted with the dazzling *beauty* of that Heaven Born *Light* as with incredible swiftness it *passes* onward, downward, until the *rainbowed* colors of electrified intensity and the condensed Brilliancy of a thousand prisms of the enchained hues of midnight Lightning were reflected upon the great and unknown surface of the planet Venus. Still Onward, Downward, guided by the hand of *God* through the *laws of Nature*, Downward, Downward, *Eastward.* The increasing brightness sweeps by the Central Guard of the Pleades in the glittering burnished *Aurora* of the full Electric Life of Stellar flight. Out and Beyond the dying *Moon*, "Pale Sister of the Sun," lighting its fearful wilderness of incinerated mountain ranges and naked beds of vanished seas with the awful searchlight of a passing World. Still Onward, past the *Eastern Sunrise Gate*, leaving the glorious Luminary and speeding on still in the downward course of fast receding regions of *Sun* and *Moon* and *Planet* until with ever increasing brilliancy the *Light* pierces with clear and cutting power the *Clouded Canopy* of the lower *Heaven.* It gleams upon the *Curtain* of the Storm *Cloud*, and ornaments it with *a fringe of Gold.* It paints with Alabaster whiteness the fleecy cloud that is wafted by gentle zephyrs

across the *blue* celestial sea of space in the sweet clearness of a perfect summer day.

Nearer, Nearer, comes the *Light*, gleaming in supernatural flame upon the far horizon of the *Sunrise!* Its glittering spearpoint gilds the ancient Temple of Baalbek. It illuminates, for a splendid instant, the gloomy, silent Halls of Karnac! The gray shadows of Centuries of Superstition are for a moment lifted from the great Pyramid of Egypt's King! The silent Sphinx of the desert is Outlined and Developed by the Sword of Lightning, that has cut the desert darkness with the *blade* of celestial radiance. The Persian Worshipper of Mithrates raises a wistful face. The Bowed form at the Altar of Amen-Ra trembles as the beautiful ray steals upon his startled sight. The High Priest of the Tabernacle of God in the Wilderness lights the *Holy Lamp* of the *inner Holy of Holies.* A Halo *encircles* the sacred flame; an unearthly *Light* has formed a Penumbra beyond the flame. The Ark of the Covenant is deposited in the Temple built by *Solomon* and *Hiram* in the City of *Jerusalem.* The great Congregation departs *between* the *Pillars* of the Porch. The Priest of God *Closes* the Golden *Doors*, and bars the light of day from the sacred Ark of God that holds the nation's *Archives*, *the Law* of the God of Israel. The *Light* of the sacred *Lamp* of Gold burns low in the *inner* Temple. Eli, the aged servant of God, is weary and asleep. A sudden flash of

Heavenly *Light* touches the Eyes of Samuel the Temple Child. The Boy awakes! Aroused, alert, he wakens the sleeping *Priest.* The Temple of *Light* is failing! Eli, Awake! Awake! while yet the *golden Lamp* is burning low. Saved by a Child, through the blazing *Light,* from neglect of duty.

Still Onward, through the Centuries, speeds the wondrous *Light!* sweeping through the darkening clouds of ignorance and superstition, steadily gaining ascendancy in power, while Nations of Earth rise and fall in Glorious Victory or dire Obscurity, still shining with a *rising* glory as the Idols of humanity go the way of all the earth. Still Downward toward the *Eastward* spreads the wonderful *Light from Above!* Egypt, old in the science of *Astronomy,* stands amazed and awe-stricken. Assyria, Teacher of *Astronomy,* Bows the learned head in mute and awful wonderment. Persia, with her immemorial fire upon the Altar of the Sun God Mithrates, beholds, with a startled Consciousness, the strange New Light in the Heavens. *Astronomy* is Baffled and *Astrology* is Lost. A *Light* is *rising* that can not be accounted for by Art or Science. All the Nations of the learned of Earth are *looking upward! Looking* toward the *East!* Winter wraps a snowy mantle about the tired form of Nature. Again all Earthlife slumbers peacefully beneath the soft coverlet that the celestial *hand* has spread in smooth unwrinkled folds above the sleeping

form. Again the *laborer* of Judah pursues his way to the little home beside the walls of Jerusalem. A Sentinel of Rome is now standing guard at the City Gate. A mighty throng is pressing into the famous City, the reign of Herod has reached its meridian, the Temple is no longer a place of Prayer, merchants are in the Courtways and the Porches. The Roman Eagle has taken the place of The Brazen Serpent. The Worship of the Roman Deities has usurped the pure worship of the God of Israel. Men of Judah bow the head and bear in silence the brutal ruffianism of the soldiers of Rome. Daughters of Judah hurry by with a whispered prayer to escape the scrutiny of the hired minions of an idolatrous and profligate Nationality.

Out in the environs of the City of David lies the town of Bethlehem, Bethlehem-Ephratah, least of all the cities of Judah. Great caravans are winding their way among the Judean Hills. Coming from Syria. Coming from beyond Jordan. Coming from the Phenecian Cities. Coming from the land of Egypt. Why is this great concourse of people coming to Bethlehem-Ephratah? "Cæsar Augustus has Taxed All the World" to pay tribute to Rome. Coming from the Northern Jordan, coming even from Galilee, Bethlehem is filled with visitors, the ancient Inn of Chimham is full to overflowing. Never in its history, since Abraham's time, had that ancient hos-

telry been so crowded before. Truly is it recorded in the sacred Book, "There was no room in the inn." A young couple arrive in the little town from the Northern country—two people unnoticed by the great throng of tribute payers; as night approaches a small stable is discovered, and the weary maiden seeks rest and shelter from the great multitude; a Maid of *Judah*, with the great anxious eyes and troubled soul that were the outcome of centuries of hopeless suffering on the part of her people. A Noble hearted Man is guarding her from the curious. A Roman voice calls the hour of Midnight from the Tower of the Town. A sudden tumult fills the little town; the waiting throngs are strangely excited, for strange faces have passed the sentry at the gate; strange commanding Forms appear at Chimham's Inn; followed by the curious, they quietly force their way through the great crowd of people and halt before the little stable where the *Jewish Maiden* had entered but a short time before. Strange kingly Men, whose haughty mein and Noble forms were the theme of every tongue! and, as they pause before the stable, each with a mystic *sign* looked into the starlit *Heavens*, and as they bow their royal forms they exclaim as one man, "It is the *Star* of the *King of Judah*." They enter the stable, and greet the astonished and trembling *Maiden Mother* with these wonderful words

of *symbolic* significance: "We have seen *His Star* in the *East!* and have come to worship *Him.*"

The *Babe* of the Manger! the *Child* of the *Maiden of Judah!* was the long expected *Messiah*, the *King of Judah*, and the *Hope of Israel.* This was *Shiloh* of whom Jacob spoke. *Shiloh* the Prince of Peace had come! The *Law Giver* of Israel! *The Lion* of *The Tribe* of *Judah!* All Prophecy was fulfilled. This was God's Meaning of the Ancient *Temple* Worship. The great God had sent the *Eastern Star* and *Wise Men* from the *East* to bear *witness forever* to the *King of Judah.* And as they depart and leave their precious offerings of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, Behold! the Judean Shepherds *enter* and Worship the Child of Bethlehem —Him of whom Angels sang in the presence of these same shepherds on that winter night in *Judea*, Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth, Peace, Good Will toward man. The Star remained "*Over the Place where the young child lay*" until the visit of the *Kings* of the *East!* then vanished like The Ark of the Covenant. Its sublime purpose was finished. And from this time forth *forevermore* all the *Light* of future ages of Mankind upon the Earth must emanate from and be controlled by The Child of *The Eastern Star!*

CHAPTER VI.

THE MASONRY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

We now come to a period of Time that is little understood as to its literal meaning, and deep importance to the world in general, and to all *Masons* in particular. There seems to be a growing tendency on the part of many men who have been specially *prepared* by nature and circumstance for the *labor* of Masonry in the *speculative* temples of the Present to be content with having attained the sublime Degree of a *Master* Mason, and to ever separate the institution of *Solomonic* Masonry or Real Temple Workmanship from the present and actual life with perhaps the exception of the practice of the grand principles that all the workers in *ancient* Temple Masonry were taught to observe, and it is the special aim of this volume to show to the world at large, and more *especially* to the *Masonic* World, that there was a deep *meaning* in the Tabernacle, in the Ark of the Covenant, the Covenant itself in the Temple of Solomon's Building, in the destruction of that Temple, in the Restoration of the Temple, and in the long silence of the Lord toward His Chosen People from the time of the Captivity of Judah and the Burning of the Temple until the Birth of the Child of the *Maiden of*

Judah, the Child of the *East*, "*Jesus Christ of Bethlehem Judah*," which Birth was heralded by the *Eastern Star*. I am fully aware that many honest minds may feel disposed to criticise this chapter, but I am also convinced that every true *Mason* will accept the *Truth* of the *Light* of Civilization of the *Light* of Science, of the *Light* of History, if when combined with the *Light* of Prophetic Utterance that has been proved certain by the History of Time and the Events of Nations and Individuals, which have stamped their imprint on its undying pages of sworn *verity*.

A chain of certain *Historic Facts* is found to have been welded in the tested *links* of trustworthy *Data* and the contemporaneous proof of other Nations which dealt with these people in the times in which they flourished on earth. And as History is, and can only be, a plain recital of the actual facts involved, with positive *Data*, both actual and approximate, divested of all uncertainty, prejudicial preferment, desire for, or lack of, the appreciation or the approbation of any one, excepting those minds that are capable of fair and impartial judgment of the real merit of the subject, upon a Basis of incontrovertible *truth* which can be proved by veracious *Records* and objective *Realities*. And upon these simple grounds of *Justice* to the attested *facts* we invite the close attention of every *Masonic* reader of this chapter of Historic *Bible Masonry*, that he may personally examine

the foundation of Our Ancient *Order*, and realize to the fullest extent of his power the *Wisdom*, *Strength* and *Beauty* of the *divine plan* which was drawn by the *Infinite*, not on the Trestleboard of shifting Circumstantial human life, as many erroneously profess to believe, but *laid down* by the mighty *Hand* of an Omnipotent God upon His great unmoveable *Trestleboard* of Divine Providence. And the *heart* of every true *Mason* must return its gratitude to the All Wise Creator for His Great Gift of *Masonic Light*, which, by His own care and personal supervision, was attended and preserved untainted by the *passions* of men or the havoc of War until the *Rising* of the Star in the *East*, and the wonderful Birth in the least of the cities of Judah of the Child of Bethlehem that was born from *above*, in whose personality all the Rays of interrupted *Light* were yet to converge, and upon whom the Eyes of the Universe, blinded since the fall of Adam, should yet be focussed as the One Sent into the lower World as its Teacher, Redeemer, and *Light*, and, as a firm foundation is an absolute necessity for the support of a structure of *Architecture*, of *Business*, of *Science*, and of *Law*, so *Masonry*, beyond all associations of men, *Rests* upon a sure foundation; and as a *solid* foundation is laid by the *Angle* of the perfect *square* of the *corner-stone*, so the foundation of the *Masonic Order* is laid by the *Angle* of *Principle squared* by the corner-stone of living *Truth*, and in the

pursuance of this quest we will now examine the purpose of the Tabernacle Built by God's Order in the wilderness; we have already seen that the Tabernacle was built for the special shelter of the Ark of the Covenant, and that the Ark was also built by Order of Jehovah as a special place for the repose of the Testimony or Two Tables of Stone, which were given to Moses in the Mount of Sinai. There was a deep meaning in the design of the Tabernacle and the Ark, for Paul the Apostle of Jesus Christ writes to the Hebrews in the year Anno Domini 64, and tells them thus: "Verily the first Covenant had also Ordinances of *Divine* service, and a worldly Sanctuary, for there was a *Tabernacle* made; the *first*, wherein was the Candlestick, and the Table, and the Shew Bread; which is called the *Sanctuary*. And after the *Second Veil*, the *Tabernacle*, which is called the *Holiest* of All; which had the golden *Censer*, and *the Ark* of the Covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the Golden *Pot* that had *Manna*, and *Aaron's Rod* that budded, and the Tables of the Covenant. Now when these things were thus Ordained, the Priests went always into the *First* Tabernacle, Accomplishing the service of God. But into the *Second* went the *high* Priest *alone* Once every year, Not without Blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: the Holy Ghost, this *signifying*, that the way into the *Holiest* of all was not yet made manifest,

while as the *first* Tabernacle was yet standing. But *Christ* being come a *High Priest* of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, Not of this building; Neither by the blood of Goats and Calves, but by His Own Blood He *Entered in Once* into the *Holy* Place, having obtained Eternal Redemption for us. For if the Blood of Bulls and of Goats, and the Ashes of an Heifer sprinkling the Unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh; how much more shall the Blood of Christ, who through the Eternal Spirit Offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from Dead Works to serve the Living God? It was therefore necessary that the *Patterns* of things in the *Heavens* should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with *better* sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the Figures of the True; but *into Heaven itself*, now to appear in the Presence of God for us: not yet that he should offer Himself often, but now *Once* in the End of the world hath He appeared to put away Sin by the Sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed unto Men *Once* to Die, but after this the judgment: so *Christ* was Once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for *Him* shall He appear the *Second* Time without Sin unto Salvation." Never in the language of human tongue will the History of *Masonry* be better told

than in this wonderful Epistle to the Hebrews, which was written by a *man* who had learned the *law* of Israel and *Judah*, who had received the teaching of the learned *Gamaliel*, and who had ample time and knowledge which was intensified by a zeal that knew no limit to its operative and speculative power.

Paul had been a Pharisee, and was well *qualified* in the *ancient law* of God as it was given to *Moses* and in the excess of his determinate and passionate spirit, it was his deliberate intention to fully exterminate the band of people who had espoused the cause of *Jesus Christ of Nazareth*. And yet in this glorious letter to the *Hebrews* we find the same Paul writing to the people of Israel and *Judah*. The very descendants of the Children of the Wilderness. And proving by their own *historic* Record of the duties of the *High Priest* in the Holy Tabernacle of the Wilderness that the Act of Offering by the *High Priest* of Israel was a *symbol* of the Christ, and His Offering of Blood for the human race. And as the *High Priest* of Israel entered *once* into the *Holy of Holies* to offer a Sacrifice for the yearly sin offering, so Christ was Once Offered for all time to come. This is the *Meaning* of the Tabernacle, and a proper and positive understanding of this Epistle to the Hebrews is not a possibility, if the reader is not conversant with the facts of the Exodus and the subsequent journey of the Children of Israel in the Wilderness of Arabia, for Paul sim-

ply refers the people to their own historic Past, which History, as we have already shown, does not rest upon the records of the *Jewish* historians alone, but is *Supported*, and Proved by the *Rolls* and *Stone Tablets* of the nations that were their contemporaries during the wilderness journey and their victorious entrance into, and settlement of, the City of David at Jerusalem, the City of Jebusites of the land of Canaan. This was the Beginning of Ancient Craft *Masonry* as *told* in the pages of the *Bible:* "And let them make me a *Sanctuary:* that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the *Pattern* of the Tabernacle, and the *Pattern* of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. And look that thou make them after their *Pattern*, which was shewed thee in the mount." These are plain words that were spoken by *the Lord God of Israel*, and recorded in the 25th chapter of the Book of the Exodus. And as a proof that *Masonry* entered into the realm of Earth-life in connection with the Building of the Tabernacle, it will need but a glance of the mind across the vast period of the superstitious Idolatries of the Nations of Earth, prior to this time, and also to notice the extravagant and often useless methods by which the deluded people sought to propitiate an unknown and unknowable Power, who was unknown because he had never revealed His mighty presence to man in a form or language that was in

the least understood by them, and Unknowable because the conditional development and physical limitation of the human Brain was such that a correct ideal of God was not and had never been intelligible to Man. From this plain standpoint of logical Reason it is easy to realize two positive facts relative to the advent of Masonry. The First point is: That God spoke to Moses and showed him a *Pattern*. And the Second Point is: That *God told Moses* to Build by that *Pattern*. And more than this: That the *Pattern* was of a place of *Worship*, and that the *God* that gave the *Pattern* to Moses and the necessary instructions how to build it, was *The Lord God of Israel*, who alone was to be *Worshipped*. These Facts are very significant, and every *Mason* should study the subject well. For if the Tabernacle had been built by any other *Pattern* than that which had been given by the Lord, it could not have been a perfect Building, and the reason is this: That there never has been a Temple like it in all the History of the World. And if the Temple had been built in any other manner than by the plan of measurement and choice of material which God had actually given by word of mouth, it would not have been the Architectural Model which it certainly was and will be for all time to come. And by similar comparison, if a *Mason* is not the possessor of the Foundation of the *Order*, he is at best but a copyist of and from the intelligence of other minds,

But the *Mason* who has *prepared* his *heart* and *brain* to receive and properly *adjust* the great *Facts* of Masonry, as they are faithfully recorded in the Holy *Writings*, will conduct himself in such a manner as to know that he is living up to the True Masonic *Standard*, which is a life of perfect *Morality* among all men. This attempt upon the part of a True *Mason*, will command the respect of all men, and especially men who realize that they are all *travelers* upon the *level* of a common brotherhood of *Friendship*, *Morality*, and *Brotherly Love*. And from this *Masonic* Standpoint of progressive humanity the *Mason* should earnestly endeavor in all the affairs and transactions of life to regulate every act by the perfect square of *Virtue*, and after learning the proper application of the Working Tools of *Ancient* Operative *Masonry* he should apply the same grand *principles* to daily life in *speculative* Masonry. And such a Masonic Student will always hail with ever-growing interest the great illumination of Masonic knowledge, science and skill in workmanship, for the Great *Light* of *Masonry* is the Holy *Bible—Holy!* Because it is the *only Book* in all the ages of Civilized History that *Records the Beginning of the Light of Salvation through Christ*, of a lost and ruined people, and hand in hand came the *Pattern* of the Tabernacle with the *Command* of the True *God*. Let the enthusiast wander amid the ruins

of Karnac, and find in the sculptured lines a semblance of a *square.*

Let the Archæologist delve among the ruins of prehistoric Yucatan, and find amid the serpent forms, the graceful human figures, the grotesque carvings upon the frightful images of stone, the fancied *symbol* of a Cross and Crown. Let the *Priests* of the far Orient thrill the tiny golden Bells upon the beautiful Pagodas of Brahma and Buddha. "These be thy Gods O ye people" is the legend of Fate, written in the blood of innocent children and of tortured Womanhood upon the historic page of India, but let the honest *Mason* "Search the Scripture" and search in every nook and corner of the Historic World back to the farthest *record* of human Civilization. Let him search the *records* of scientific Architecture in all the variations of the *five* great *Orders* of Architecture from the beautiful and intricate *Composite* Order of the Present, composed of the *Beauty* of the Corinthian, the *Ornamentation* of the Tuscan, the *plain* and *moulded* Ionic, and the *solid simple* Doric Order; aye, back to the very days of the *Bended Trees* and the "Booths in the Wilderness," and he will find a perfect agreement between the *Bible* and the History of *Architecture.* Let him study with anxious eye the Wonders of *Astronomy,* look through the mental Telescope of Hershel, Humboldt, Henry, and yet there is nothing known by man of astronomic law to Account

for the peremptory Arrest of the *Sun* in the days of Joshua, or for the Backward motion of the same great *light* in the days of Hezekiah the King, and let the student of *Masonry* attempt to discover the dividing line between true *Masonry* and real *Religion*, and he will find that before ever the Grecian Mythology was in existence the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Tabernacle, and long before Cyrus of Persia, Darius of Media, or Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian reigned in their respective kingdoms, that the *Tabernacle* of the Ark of the Covenant was *Set up* in the Wilderness of Arabia by *Moses* at the command of *God*. Before the children of Israel were in the Promised Land; while they were traveling *Eastward* toward the Jordan valley from the Red Sea, even then in the year 1491, B. C., the *Order* of *God* was given by Him to *Moses*, and the *Order* of *Masonry* was *instituted* in the *Wilderness* of *Sinai* with a *Charter* from the *God of Israel*, who *Commissioned Moses* as His chosen *Master in Israel* to build a *Tabernacle* for the *Ark of the Covenant*, which *Covenant* was *written* by the hand of *God*, and by His command was deposited in the side of the *Ark*. This was the *Beginning* of *Masonic Worship* of the True God, or, in other words, the sensible *adoration* of the great *Creator* in a way which *He Himself* had fashioned for the use of His People, which worship was to be ever conducted in accordance with *His instructions*, and within a Build-

ing that was constructed in perfect accord with the actual Cubit Measurement that was uttered by the Great *God* in His words to Moses. Is there any other *Order* in the world that can point to a consecutive Historical *Record* of *Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight Years*, or from 1491, B. C., to 1898, A. D., and an *Order* that is still *progressive* wherever *Civilization* has opened the pathway for *development* of Civil life, law, and liberty. These figures may be disputed, *nay, will be*, but positive *Masonry*, like positive *Character*, rests upon solid *fact*, and is not at all disturbed by adverse *Criticism*, which criticism, like the Boomerang of the South African or Australian Bushman, often returns with deadly force upon the inexpert or uninformed who are possessed of more self-assurance than sound, sensible judgment; and to *Masons* who may honestly differ in regard to the point herein stated, or as to absolute *truth* of figures or data, let me say this, That a careful study of the *writings of Moses* as they are recorded in the *Authorized Version* of *the Holy Bible* will surely *convince* any man who will read the record of the *Great Light*, and a True *Mason* will be ever ready to *admit* a certified *fact* after a personal examination has convinced his reason of the same;and to the *Student of Masonry* let me also remark, that every step in *Ancient Craft Masonry* is portrayed in *the Holy Bible*, and that in order to know *Masonry*, it is necessary to know *the Bible*, and to any man who may

glance at these pages of *Bible Masonry* that is not a *Mason*, let me say to you, That of all the grand and historic institutions in the known World there is not One Order that can even Copy Ancient *Masonry*, and when the chain of evidence has been completed it will be found that every link in this chain has been thoroughly tested in the forge of historic Truth, as there is nothing which has been accepted or considered worthy of acceptance that is not fully *supported* by the Record of *the Holy Bible*, of *Science*, and of actual *History*, and so as the foundation of Practical, Ethical, and Spiritual *Masonry* was laid in the *Tabernacle* in the wilderness of Sinai, it is next in order to examine the *Second link* in the chain of Evidence, which is the *Holy of Holies* or Place of the Ark of the Covenant. We have *seen* that this was a Cube of 10 Cubits every way, and that the Ark of the Covenant was placed within it, and we have also noticed that the Temple which was built in Jerusalem by Solomon and Hiram was exactly the same in form and proportion as the Tabernacle, but that it was a larger building than the Tabernacle, and exactly Double the measurement of the Tabernacle in each and all its exterior and the interior dimensions.

This is a wonderful and isolated fact of Architecture, That a Tent of Badgers' skins, erected in a wilderness by a wandering band of people, should become a *Model* 400 years *later*, of the *Finest Temple* that

had ever graced a city of a civilized and cultured Nation. But it is a positive *fact*, and here lies another strong *link* in the powerful Cable of *Masonic* Truth. Again the complete Destruction of *Solomon's* Temple was *not* an unexpected accident or the calamity of Battle strife alone. It was definitely *determined*, and clearly *foretold* with a precise *foreknowledge* of both the *time* and the *manner* of its annihilation, and even the *name* of the Nation and its King that would conquer Israel was *foretold* with a certainty and force of description that could only result from *one* source, and that was Divine Knowledge of future events, that was fully substantiated by the actual *result* in the final Destruction of the City of Jerusalem, together with the *Captivity of Judah*, which fact was also prophesied in connection with the Temple. Isaiah had also prophesied that *a Remnant* should return from the land of the stranger in the Second Book of The Kings. Huldah had also told the messengers of King Josiah of the fearful destruction of the Temple and the City of Jerusalem, 624, B. C., which was 86 years after the time of Isaiah's prophecy in 710, B. C. Jeremiah! 18 years after foretold the same disaster in the year 606, B.C., and this same Prophet lived to *see* the actual fulfillment of *his* prophecy, which was the total *ruin* of the City and Temple in 588, B.C. There was certainly a *meaning* in a prophecy that was uttered 124 years before its

literal fulfillment in the actual history of the Hebrews. And again a peculiar connection seems to have existed between the Obedience of the People to the Commandments of God and His special Blessing upon them for so doing, and the equally binding Destruction which was ever the result of a Disobedience of His Orders. There was absolutely Nothing! of a chance nature whatever in either the prophecy or the History of the Hebrew people. There was simply no escape whatever from the conditions which God had *Ordained* in the same proportion, as there was also not the slightest deviation from *His Pattern* or His *Measurements* allowed by Him for the Temple Builders. Thus Saith the Lord, was the *Decree* that ruled them. The Skeptic may affect to sneer, but the sneer will fade upon his whitening lips as the vision of Terrible *Certainty* dawns upon his brain. The *Restoration* by *Zerubbabel* is still another strong link in the chain of *Facts*, for Isaiah had spoken of a *Remnant* of Judah that should come out from *Babylon* and live again in the City, and it is certainly a remarkable coincidence at least that *they* did return and begin the Rebuilding of the Temple were in very truth a Remnant of the once powerful *Lion Tribe* of Judah. The Silence of The Lord in the midst of the distress of His people was even foretold in the law of *Moses*. To neglect The Lord was to forfeit all claims upon His mercy and forgiving power. And although the Cap-

tives wept bitter tears over their pitiful and lamentable condition before the attempt to *Restore* the Temple, and though all that could be done by the people was done, yet *God* had departed from them, and all this misery had been foretold as a terrible punishment in store for a disobedient people, and the actual order of the tribal *division*. Israel first with ten tribes, and the Tribe of *Judah last* in *Captivity* and *first* in the *Restoration*, *was* but a fulfillment of the Ancient Prophecy, and of the truth of this statement there is and can be *no doubt* whatever, thus adding another *link* of strength to the chain of Historic *Masonry*. The *Eastern Star* was the first *Sign* that *Judah* received from *God* after the *Destruction* of Solomon's Temple. And *this Sign* through *Judah* is the World's *Only* Charter of Christianity in this present Age. And *this Sign* is the *only* encouragement that the Hebrews received from the days of the Prophet Malachi—the last of the Prophets—in 433, B.C. until the day of its appearance in the year that Cæsar Augustus, the Emperor of Rome, issued the now famous order that all the provinces of Rome that existed in the known World should be subjected to taxation for the benefit of the Roman Government. And in order that the mind of the reader may be perfectly clear as to the actual Data of the appearance of the *Eastern Star*, it is necessary that a well determined point of *time* shall be found which

shall corroborate by Historic Events the declaration of the 2nd Chapter of the Gospel by Luke: "And it came to pass *in those days* that there went out a *Decree* from Cæsar Augustus that all the world should be *Taxed.*" Now, in order to *establish* a *definite* time by which we may be certain of a sure *foundation* for all the *facts* that shall follow. And we have but to read the writings of the great Roman Historian, *Edward Gibbon*, to find that only *One* Man bore the proud title of *Cæsar Augustus*, and further: We also find that *this* man, having originated in a family of obscure plebian birth, had, by an artfulness seldom equalled, succeeded in placing himself upon the imperial throne of the Roman Empire in the days of the Beginning of the Christian Era. And that he had obtained such absolute control over his subjects that he assumed the name of Augustus as his family name, signifying sternness, and he also assumed the imperial title of Cæsar, the Ruler.

This being accomplished his next movement was in a religious direction, which was to declare himself a Deified Man, or in other words a god among men, and after imposing upon the credulity of the people, he was enabled to extort by a decree of *taxation* the amounts that were required by the extravagant Roman Court, and it was this same "*Cæsar Augustus*" that issued the Decree of *Taxation* to the now Roman Province of *Judea*, and it was as a part of the

provinces that formed "All the World" of Roman Citizenship and Roman Government that *Judea* and *Jerusalem* obeyed his imperial mandate; and among the people of *Hebrew Blood* and *Judah's Lineage* that were obliged to obey this summons from the Emperor were the young couple of whom we have already written. They were poor people who lived in the little town of *Nazareth* in the country of *Galilee*, and they were *lineal descendants of David* and of *Solomon* of *the Lion Tribe of Judah*, and from the *record* in the *Bible* they were a very *peculiar* couple also. "And *Joseph* also went up from *Galilee* out of the City of *Nazareth into Judea* unto the City of David, which is called Bethlehem (*Because* he was of the *House* and *Lineage of David*), to be *taxed* with *Mary* his espoused Wife, being great with Child, and so it was that while they were there the days were *accomplished* that she should be delivered, and she brought forth her first born *Son*, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a Manger, because there was *no room* for them in the inn. Luke, 2d Chapter, 1st to 7th Verses. Now we will compare *this* statement with another. "Now when Jesus was *Born* in *Bethlehem of Judea*, in the days of *Herod the King*." Matthew, 2d Chapter, 1st Verse. We must find a perfect *unity* between the statement of the reign of *Cæsar Augustus* as Emperor of Rome and the reign of *Herod* as King of Judea, which is *proved* by History to be *One* and

the *Same Time*. *In the Time* intervening between the year 5, B. C., and the year 3, B. C., at which time Herod's career was ended by death, and Archelaus his son ascended the throne in his place, and it is within the space of *these two years* that the *Taxation* of the Provinces and the *Coincident* Reigns of *Cæsar Augustus and Herod* must be *located* by the searcher after knowledge of the *Truth* of *the Holy Bible;* and as has already been stated *Reliable* History *affirms these facts*. But although this is a firmly *established point*, yet it signifies but little except as a *Record* of a *Birth* that occurred in *a stable in Bethlehem*, where there was but *one* place of refreshment and rest for the weary Traveler, *Chimham's Inn*, of ancient name and History that was filled to overflowing by the returning people of Hebrew Blood who were *taxed* by the Roman Emperor *Cæsar Augustus* "in the days of *Herod the King.*" But a very singular *circumstance* changes the *nature* of the simple story of the Couple from *Nazareth* of Galilee and the *Child* that had been laid in a Manger by His *Maiden* Mother, the Hebrew *Maid*, who had been the *chosen* woman of all the *Hebrew* Race to bring forth from her own chaste *virginity* the *Holy Being*, whose wondrous Birth had been *foretold* by the prophet *Isaiah*, whose prophecy *also* included the incredible statement that His Mother should be a *Virgin*, a *Maiden* of Judah, also naming the *Birthplace* and earthly *Name* of this unknown

Child of the Manger. *This* Being, whose *Advent* upon Earth had passed unnoticed by the World of Men, became suddenly an object of the utmost importance to all the *Judean* World by whom he was surrounded. The *Shepherds* of Judea told the sweet young Mother of the Visit of the *Angel* Chorus, and in accents of reverent joy they repeated the Wonderful Announcement of the Angel Host, "*Fear Not*, for there is Born unto you this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is *Christ the Lord.*"

And their simple declaration of what they had seen and heard was gloriously confirmed by the presence and inquiry of the *Wise Men* from the *East*, who, as they entered, electrified the listeners with a startling and wonderful question, "Where is He that is Born *King of the Jews?* For We have Seen His Star in the *East* and are come to Worship Him!" (Matthew, 2nd Chapter.) This was a strange Event, and we, children of another race, in a later time, may well meditate upon these significant *Facts.* For, had the obscure birth of *this* Child been noticed by the observation of the uncommon activity of a single *Star* by the simple shepherds who were watching their sheep during the hours of that winter night, and had those men simply imagined that a Vision of Angels had been before their Eyes, and that Voices from heavenly singers had sounded the sweet strains of glorious Music within their hearing, and by virtue of the

startling Apparition of the *Celestial* Visitants and the radiant pathway of the *Blazing Star*. Their minds were awed in mute fear and worship. We may easily imagine the effect upon them, and the haste with which they would travel to Bethlehem and tell the story to the assembled multitude. But not only did these poor unlearned Shepherds leave their flocks upon the Judean plains and hasten toward the place where the strange *Star* had seemed to linger, but a *stranger* truth than this yet remains to engage the *reason* of the attentive mind, and *this* Truth was told by the lips of *Wise* Men, Men who had *Opened* the Books of Knowledge and learned therefrom the secret of *Wisdom*, *Strength*, and *Beauty*, and the very simplicity of their question is astounding in the conviction that it carries to the listener, "Where is He that is *Born King* of the Jews? We have Seen *His Star!* and are come to Worship Him." Not only did the poor shepherds of Judea humbly bow before the Child of the Manger, but the *Wise* Men from the East, who had attained the highest plane of Knowledge of Physical Nature, and of the *Astrology* of the *Stars* in Heaven, within human life, signified by Acts of Worship and Words of *Wisdom* the complete and immoveable affiliation of *Scientific Truth* with *simple Worship*, through real *Faith* in *Him* who lay before them, in his Beautiful, Royal Infancy, *Jesus!* the Son of *Mary!* whose *Herald* was *The Eastern Star!* That beautiful

Star that led the *Wise* to His Birthplace with their *Wisdom* resting upon the supporting *Strength* of Scientific Knowledge of *Facts*, which Principles of *Wisdom* and *Strength* were *adorned* with the true *Beauty* of the simple *Adoration* of the *Christ* by the Kings of the *East* and Shepherds of *Judea*, as they *bowed* before the Manger *Altar* in the Worship of the *Truth* of *God* upon the common *level* of the *Earthen Floor* of the lowly place where Jesus Christ *The King of Heaven* was *Born* to Suffer and to Die, a *Living* Sacrifice in whom every *Type* and every *Shadow* of all the History of the *Past* were yet to be developed by the *Master Will* into a Glorious *Human Temple*, Perfect in its physical and mental splendor, and adorned with all the rich material of Heavenly *Spirituality*, "The Fairest among Ten Thousand, and the *One!* Altogether Lovely." *This* is the actual History and the true picture that is presented to the observant mind, and the powerful *Fact* that is the center of attraction is "*The Star in the East*" that never had been observed to cross the Heavens before by any of the learned savants, whose Calculations are the *Basic* starting point of the *Astronomy* of the present. And never *since* that time has "The *Eastern Star*" crossed the disc of telescopic vision.

These facts are also proved by the literal events of which secular History has taken truthful custody, and they can *not* be repudiated or controverted with-

out a Violation of the Truth of God. "When Herod the King heard these things he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the Chief Priests and Scribes of the People together, he demanded of them where Christ should be Born?" It was an open secret, among all the people, that a King was to be Born who should rule and govern them, and "deliver *Judah*" from her condition of servility to Rome; and King *Herod* was well aware of this expectancy of the Jewish people, over whom he ruled by virtue only of the Roman Power which had conquered the Tribe of *Judah*. And *this* it was that caused Herod to ask the question that had been suggested to him, by the unexpected visit, which he also had received from the "*Wise Men* from the *East*"—and *their* query of the King had been the same as of the people of Bethlehem. "Where is He that is *Born King* of the Jews?" Therefore, Herod was troubled, because he was well aware that the "*Wise Men of the East*" were well informed, and that their *faith* was certainly based upon scientific *fact*, and that they were able to give a *reason* for the same. The people answered this question very easily. "And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the Prophet; And thou Bethlehem in the land of Judah; for out of thee shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel." This was the prophecy of the prophet Micah—5th Chap. 2nd verse—and had been

treasured up, in the memory of the people of *Judah*, for more than 700 years. And they confidently expected a Deliverer! that should be *Born in Bethlehem* of Judea, and not only had His Birthplace been accurately defined, But the ancient prophets *also* declared that His Birth was to be a *physical antagonism* to all the known Laws of natural Physiology." Therefore, The Lord Himself shall give you a *Sign!* Behold, a Virgin! shall conceive and Bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel ("God with Us"): Isaiah 7: 14. *This!* was the *Sign!* which had seemed incredible and at variance with every known principle of physical Law; and still, for 740 years, The Hebrew people had vaguely hoped for its fulfillment. Maidens of *Judah* had been carefully reared, and sternly guarded, *because* of the prophetic words of the ancient Men of God, who had raised the *veil* of the Future and disclosed the *coming* of the Governor of Judah, The God-Man, who was to *establish* the Kingdom of the House of *Judah* forever. And now it had come to pass, after 700 years of darkened national life, that a *Virgin Maid* of Judah had *borne a child* in the little city of *Bethlehem Judah.* And when Herod asked the question of the Priests and Scribes of Judah, they at once referred him to the written word of the same man, who had warned the Tribe of Judah 700 years before of their coming destruction, and their certain captivity, of the Return of the Remnant, who should Restore the Tem-

ple and the City, and of its final and utter Destruction and Downfall and Ultimate Triumph in the Advent of the *Child of the Virgin Mary* of the *Tribe* of *Judah.* And it was for *this* reason that they answered Herod in the manner in which they did; and the result of this was, that the Roman Governor Herod was much alarmed, and at once began to question those whom he had a reason to believe were possessed of the necessary and valuable information as to the *Time* that the Star in the *East* had appeared, and as he sent for the *wise* men who had *seen* the Star, and had been guided by it to the place where the young child lay." It seems a certainty, that at least Herod, the cold-blooded Monster, was *afraid* of this Child, which was said to have been Born in such a wonderfully mysterious manner, and, they were also told by Herod, to return him word when they had *found* this child. But those *Wise* Men never returned to Herod, and, in consequence of his fear and jealous rage, Herod formed the awful resolution to Kill every male child under two years of age; and this atrocious murder of the Hebrew Children was the actual result of that *one man's* decision, and it proves *two facts*—First, that the *Virginal* Birth of Jesus Christ was a *Certainty,* as to *Manner, Time* and *Place;* and, Second, That the History of Rome will *prove* the *Bible* true by declaring the *Acts* of *Herod,* the Governor of Judah's Province

under the reign of Cæsar Augustus, Emperor of Rome.

And now We arrive at the strangest portion of this wonderful narrative. The *Wise Men* were *Warned of God*, in a dream, *against* returning to *Herod*, and they Obeyed the warning that came from God in a Dream. "They departed into their own country another way." The Same Agency also appeared to Joseph, and he was warned to "take the young child and His Mother and flee into Egypt." The Angel of The Lord also gave Joseph instructions to remain in Egypt until word from The Lord should be brought to him in that country. And Joseph Obeyed The Lord and remained in Egypt until the Death of Herod. The expected Word was then sent to Joseph as recorded in the Great *Light:* "When Herod was dead, Behold! An Angel of The Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, Arise! and take the young child and His Mother, and go into the land of Israel, for they are dead which sought the young child's life." And thus *it is a fact!* That although the massacre of the children of Judea was one of the most terrible events that blackened the career of the relentless *Herod*, still by the intervention of God the life of the *Child of Bethlehem* was saved. This was in the reign of Cæsar Augustus as the Emperor of Rome, and every fact is faithfully *proved* by the actual Record of History. And the birth of The

Christ! together with His Star, which appeared in the East at the precise time of His Advent, was but the result of God's Unalterable plan to redeem His people from their sins, as He had promised by the word of the prophets. These events occurred three years prior to the declaration of the Christian Era, or dating Time, from the birth of Christ. From this time forward until the appearance of Joseph and Mary with Christ in the Herodian Temple in Jerusalem, in the year 9, A.D., there is no further mention of Jesus during childhood. But at *this* time, which was twelve years from the time of His birth, we are told of his entering the Temple of Herod, and, upon meeting with the doctors of the Law, He was discovered by His parents disputing with them and asking them questions. And from that time until the year 27, A.D., when another strange sight presented itself in the Desert of Judea: "In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. For this is He that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." These were the *words* of the prophet Isaiah, and were spoken in reference to the words of the man who would be sent from God to prepare the way of *Christ*, and by referring to the 40th Chapter of the Book of Isaiah, we find these

exact words *recorded* which were spoken 712 years before this time. There certainly existed a connection between the prophecy of Isaiah and the preaching of John, for the time and place of the work of *John the Baptist.* was the exact *counterpart* of the prophecy of Isaiah. There was *One Person* whom Isaiah was expecting to come, and in the fullness of time to release His people. And the testimony of John the Baptist also *proves* that he, too, was expecting *Christ* to appear, but still the Child of the *Star* had *not* appeared since the Passover service in the Temple of Herod in the year 9, A.D. Where had he been during the 18 years that had passed since that time? Was He still alive? Where was The Christ? Suddenly, without warning, *Christ appears* in the valley of the *Jordan River*, mingling with the crowd. He stood with the great multitude of *Judeans.* "And it came to pass in those days that *Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was Baptized of John in Jordan.*" (Mark, 1st chap.)

This event occurred in the year 27, A.D. John had been *prepared* by The Lord to Know the Christ by the appearance of the Holy Ghost descending and *remaining* upon Him. This was a *Sign* that God would keep His word to His Prophet *Isaiah* (41st Chap. Isaiah.) "Who raiseth up the righteous man from the *East?*" And *John the Baptist* bears this testimony, "And I knew him not, but he that *sent* me to Baptize with

water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him, the *same is He* which Baptizeth with The Holy Ghost" (John 1:33). And *John the Baptist* still further affirms his belief in *Christ* by saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from Heaven like a *dove*, and it abode upon *Him*, and I saw and bare Record that *this is The Son of God*" (John 1:32,34). But not only did *John the Baptist* bear witness of Christ, but Jesus himself uttered a firm declaration, "The *Law* and the *Prophets* were until *John*" (Luke 16:16). This is a wonderful statement, for it practically *ended* all previous methods by which man hoped to gain the favor of the *Creator*. And it will be noticed by the careful reader that *Christ substantiated* the ancient *Law*, and declared that with the appearance of *John the Baptist* came *also* the approach of the *End* of the Law and the Prophets. And in continuance of this important declaration, He adds another statement which completely illumines the past history of the people of God, and discloses to their view a perfect picture of the great *plan* of God, which had been dimly outlined through the history of their *national* and *religious* life—a *plan* that had been reverenced in awe by the Fathers of Israel and blindly followed by the majority of the people, and but little understood by the most enlightened among them. Christ declared *plainly* that the ancient *Law* of God that was given to *Adam* in the garden of Eden (Gen.

2:16,17,) was now *ended* by its fulfillment in accordance with the ancient order of the *Creator*, namely, That Obedience to the Law would bring the Blessing of sure reward, and that Disobedience to the Law would bring certain punishment upon the offender. This *Law* was also given to *Noah*, after the flood had destroyed all the living from the earth, with the exception of the occupants of the *Ark*, which was also built according to God's Orders.

It was given to *Abraham*, to *Isaac*, and to *Jacob*, and finally to *Moses*, amid the thunder of the clouded Batteries of the Artillery of Heaven and the subterranean quaking of the disturbed elements of the inner Earth. The Law *Engraved* upon two tables of *stone*, *cut* by the hand of God was given to *Moses*, and after the Ark of the Covenant had been built by the *special design* of the God of the *Hebrews*, the Tables of Stone were placed within it, and were sacredly *kept* to be read to the people every *seventh* year. *Moses* by the command of God had *copied* all the Law in a *Book*, and the Levites had placed it in the side of the *Ark*, and from the Wilderness journey to Jerusalem, from the Tabernacle to the Tempie, from the Building to the Destruction of the Temple, the *Law* of *God* had been faithfully *preserved in the Ark* of the Covenant, but with the Destruction of the Temple, and the loss of the Ark, there fell upon the people the conviction that they were forsaken of the Lord forever, and

until Ezra the scribe informed them of the contents of his *Copy* of the Book of the Law which he in happier times had carefully reproduced from the original Tables of *Stone* the people had abandoned themselves to the deep despair of *seventy* years of captivity. After the great awakening, when the people had made Booths and feasted and worshipped the Lord God of Israel, and the New Temple built by *Nehemiah* and *his Companion Zerubbabel* was made the scene of a deeply repentant people, who begged God for a *restoration* of His favor upon themselves and their children, but the voice of God was *silent* with the exception of a faint ray of *light* that Isaiah had given in the promise of a Redeemer who was yet to Come and Deliver the children of Judah from the Captivity, and *raise* the fallen standard of the *Lion* of the Tribe of *Judah*, and now the *end* had come for the Temple Service and Sacrifice. There was no more virtue in *material* Works, for the Spiritual Kingdom had been inaugurated, and as Isaiah had promised, so *John* had come, and had proved himself "the *voice* in the Wilderness, crying, Repent ye for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The multitudes had listened to the voice of *John the Baptist.* They had Repented, and they had been Baptized by him till the *Carpenter* of Nazareth appeared on the scene and then realizing the truth of prophecy in the personal appearence of *Jesus Christ,* John exclaimed: "I have

need to be Baptized of Thee, and Comest thou to me." And the voice of Christ reassured *John* as he answered: "Suffer it to be so, for *thus* it becometh Us to *fulfill* all righteousness." And "*Jesus* came from Nazareth of Galilee and was Baptized of *John* in Jordan." (Mark 1:9.) After *these* things Jesus came into *Galilee* preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of *God* saying, "Repent ye and Believe the *Gospel.*" (Mark 1:15). The result of all this *preparation* of centuries of worship and sacrifice for the purpose of *knowing* the *True* God began to appear. Man had been taught to obey God through *fear* of His Anger, and the dread of his fearful power from the savage Idolater to the semi-civilized Hebrew there had been a thread of ever increasing *Light.* Man had advanced in the *Arts* and the *Sciences*; he had made wondrous strides in the *improvement* of himself and his surroundings. The rude shelter of Rock had developed into beautiful *Architecture.* The rude *Stone* had been changed to the Altar of *Gold.* The Idol worship of the *material* and the *Natural* had become deeply impregnated with the force and beauty of a *Spiritual* Consciousness that was gradually moulding thought and reasoning faculties into *Spiritual* form, and as the tendency of the Natural Soul was to Spiritual *disobedience*, so in exact *reverse* order the rescue of the Soul from the spiritual results of a spiritual *transgression* must of necessity be accom-

plished by spiritual *means*, and therefore the plain words of *Christ* were freighted with the deepest meaning when he declared that though "the Law and the Prophets were until *John*, yet *Since that time* the Kingdom of *God* is preached, or, in other words, that while during the Ages of man's existence previous to the time and work of *John the Baptist* there had been many efforts made by sacrifice and oblation to obtain a material Blessing from the hand of Deity, yet *since* the day that the prophetic tongue of Isaiah had uttered the prophecy of the *voice* which now was fulfilled in *John the Baptist* until *John's* voice rang through the Wilderness saying, "Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Since *that* time the Kingdom of God is preached. Christ had not come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill the Law. (Matt. 5:17). Therefore by His Own Words Christ led the people to a higher plane of thought, for as Christ was the *end* of the Law by completely fulfilling its every demand being *born* in the personality of *man* with a human body and a human brain, yet *Christ* was a spiritual being, and was guided in his words and deeds by the spirit of God that dwelt *within* his nature. The Holy Spirit had descended upon *Him*, and it *never* had done so in any instance before in the history of Man. This was the *Sign* that *John* had been expecting, and it had come to pass in his *presence*. There was no doubt as to the actuality of the scene, and now it simply re-

mained for the future career of this favored Man of Nazareth to *prove* by his Words and Acts that the spiritual Being *was* the controlling essence of power both over himself and others with whom He was to meet and associate during the remainder of his earthly life. No longer in the shop of Joseph of Nazareth; no longer in obscurity and unknown to his fellow-men, but from this time forth he was to be a *Light*. "The life was the *light* of men." He was to *light* the dark world of trouble with the *Hope* of better things. He was to *light* the homes of the poor with the *Hope* of a blessed home in a future world. He was to be a *light* of health in the presence of disease. And He was also to stand by the Grave and *light* its narrow entrance with the Glory of the *Resurrection*, and yet the motive for all this wonderful work was a motive of which man had never dreamed. It was because of His *love* for the spirits of men. All this material labor was performed *because* of His Spiritual Love for men and His desire to save their immortal Souls from eternal loss, and from the vengeance of outraged *Law* by the sacrifice of all earthly honor, position, and favor of men during life, and to complete that unselfish labor of love by the personal sacrifice of Himself that by His physical death and resurrection He might save the world to a *spiritual* life in the world beyond the grave; and it was for *this* purpose that He began His Ministry of the Kingdom of God in the

Wilderness of Judea. It was for this purpose that He laid in the grave on the common *level* of humanity, and it was for this purpose that He was *Raised* from the Dead; *Raised* from that *level* of inanimation to the *living* Reality of Spiritual life by the strong *hand* of the Angel of the Lord. And it was for the same purpose that he ascended into Heaven and is "*Preparing* a place for all that love Him." (John 14.) It was for this purpose that *God* spoke to Moses, and because of this same Reason that the Temple was built, that by the material, *operative* labor of partially enlightened minds a *foundation* might be laid with a *spiritual* meaning in the corner-stone that was to be completed in Jesus the Christ, and unless the work of the human Christ is found to have been performed upon actual rules and principles of materialized spiritual force this argument will *not* be correct. But *if* in every word and act of the human Christ we discover the principle of spiritual *light* and spiritual *force* and reliance upon *God* as a real *spiritual* Being, then it will be easily seen that even the wonderful miracles which Christ did certainly perform in the presence of reliable witnesses were simply the sure results of His solvency of the problem of Spiritual force that expressed its power in the production of the material results that stand in direct opposition to all the known laws of natural life and being.

There is *one* fact that exists in *all* the work of

Christ, which *must be admitted* even by those who are avowed enemies of the Holy *Bible*, and that fact is simply this: Jesus Christ worked by a *Rule*, and *that* rule was never deviated from in the slightest particular; even His Words were spoken in accordance with this stern *rule*. And this *rule* was the *Rule* of Solomon, the *Rule* of Moses, and it was used in perfection by Jesus Christ. He followed a *pattern* that *God* had designed. God gave Moses a *pattern* of the Tabernacle, and it was perfect in plan and was built upon the principle of a Cubic Square. The Temple at Jerusalem was built by King *Solomon* upon the *pattern* of the tabernacle by the enlarged *plan* of the *arc* of *90 degrees*, or the 4th part of a *Circle*, which was a perfect mental square of intellectual judgment, capable of adjustment in any situation of the Building from the foundation to the Cap Stone of all Earthly *Architecture* of a material form and substance. But still, like the ancient tabernacle, the temple was subject to destruction at the hand of human beings. And it was merely a *Symbol* of a more complete and glorious development of a permanent structure that would not only combine all the elements of *Wisdom*, *Strength*, and *Beauty* of the Temple that *Solomon* built for the worship of God, but also to *add* to the material organism of man's inventive and operative faculties the *real* Truth and *eternal* Verity, and *immortal* existence of a spiritual Temple builded *in the*

Body. The Soul of the *body directing the thought of the Mind, which* in turn *governs* each member of the human form in its varied actions of life. The *Spirit* of Man moving the Brain by the currents of spiritual force to Decision of Will, operates in *harmony* with the intelligence of the *Spirit* of Truth, and the Spirit Soul, the *Master Workman*, whose residence is the *Brain* of Man, is directed in its decisions by the *Reason* of the supreme *spiritual* Ruler of its *spirit* nature, and because of this spiritually governed Will, the machinery of the human brain is set in motion to move the *Visible* Body in accord with the harmonized *Dual* Force, and thus the individual builds a *spiritual* nature hour by hour until mortal dissolution of the *dual* partnership of Soul and Body dislocates the fabric of the machinery of *physical* life, and the finer mechanism of the Brain becomes paralyzed and utterly inanimate. *Then!* the spiritual Being that has resided in the human Brain, seated upon the throne of Reason, and directing all the mental efforts, expending all its energies, yields to the magnetic force of the great central Dynamo of spiritual power, and drawn by an irresistible attraction, the Spirit of man *leaves* its temporal home in the human brain for a permanent habitation in the realms of a *spiritual* World, Where *God* is supreme! Where all is *Peace!* And where the *harmony* of Eternal *Wisdom* is preserved by the watchful *Tylership* of Omni-

presence! This is and can only be the Result of the *Labor* of the True Temple Builder who labors under the direction of the *Holy* Spirit of Divine *Truth*. And as Jesus Christ was the *first* human being upon whom this divine spirit was bestowed by the will of the great *Artificer* of the Universe, There is and can be but *One* certain Truth concerning His *rank* as a man. And that is that by the Divine powers with which He was endowed, and the implicit Obedience to the Will of God, which He ever and always exhibited, were simply the *preparatory* methods with which He was *invested* by the God of Israel for the accomplishment of His all-important lesson to man. And by the perfect *reason* of His arguments and the exquisite *knowledge* of all things in Nature and in Man of the correctness of Theory only when proved by a practical demonstration of *Utility* through process of *Labor*, His faithfulness to the *Pattern* of the great God of Israel. All these *facts* declare Him to be *Jesus! The Christ!* The *Founder* and the *Grand Master of Masonry and Religion.*

The life of Jesus upon earth was filled with acts of power, that were prompted by His perception of the needs of individuals, and proceeded from a Divine *Charity* toward All Men. He seems to have been specially careful to observe every single opportunity of *doing good*, regardless of the approval or objection of His fellow-men. "His Father's Business" was His

chief concern, and the life of Christ was the ideal life of a *Masonic* Workman upon the earth, ever watchful of the interests of the *Great Master* of All things, and with true unceasing *labor* to devote the life energies to the accomplishment of that which is enforced by duty or suggested by *love* of our *God* and fellow-creatures. This principle was ever followed by Jesus in the work that had been *designed* for Him to finish, and which Jesus performed with a calm dignity of bearing and *Authority* of manner that compelled even His enemies to admire and respect Him. And Jesus showed the true *Masonic* spirit when He read the *Book* of Isaiah before the people, as Ezra had read the *Book* of the Law centuries before. "This Day is this Scripture *fulfilled* in your ears." Jesus was ever willing to be tried by the Scripture, and if He failed to show *proficiency* in His actual *labor*, He expected to be *refused*, and to be also branded as an impostor. But, on the contrary, if He complied with the requirements of the Divine *Light*, then He demanded Recognition of the *facts* upon the ground of *Truthfulness*. "If I do *not* the works of my *Father!* Believe me not." "But if I *Do*, Though ye believe not m , *Believe* the *Works!* that ye may *know!* and believe that the Father is in me." (John 10:38.) *This* was the true spirit of a *Masonic* Workman, One who was willing that his work should be *tried*. And Christ was also *Masonic* in His judgment of crime: "He that is

without Sin among you, let him first cast a stone!"

These cutting words were addressed to the Hypocrites: "Neither do I Condemn thee, Go, and Sin no more." (John 8:10, 11.) These words of forgiveness were spoken to the guilty sinner. This is a great *Light* upon the inner life and the clear judgment of *Christ* in an actual case of sinfulness. He was personally above the possibility of Contamination, and yet his loving, forgiving spirit was ever busy in the noble work of saving the lost. Pure in character as the polar star in the Arctic sky. Sweet in his simple, childlike faith in God as the delicate flower that lifts it dew-crowned head in response to the morning Kiss of the Sun. Firm and Fearless, Unterrified in Will Power as the iron-fronted Ocean Crag that breasts the foaming crests of giant waves, and hurls them back with the force of the shock of their own recoil by the stern, set, immovable solidity of the silent strength of Nature's mighty Barriers of the Oceans of the Globe. This was a perfect *Masonic* character. Unruffled by the wild tempest of Nature on the Sea of Galilee, or by the rude, passionate outbreak of the people of Capernaum. Secure in the promise of His *Guide*, the Father in Heaven, They could not take Him, "Because His hour was not yet come." And again His steady *bearing* in the judgment hall of Pilate was the *Symbol* of His *Kingly Masonic* nature. "My Kingdom is not of this World." These

words bespeak a Soul imbued with grand spirituality and firm resolution to steadfastly abide by the Truth, which had been revealed unto Him by the Father in Heaven. But the grandest Masonic act of Jesus Christ was the *raising* again to life and strength the *Son* of the *Widow* of the City of Nain. Christ was engaged in his own all-important and responsible duties as a man who was a true representative of the God of Heaven and Earth. A funeral procession winds its mournful length through the city gate. Christ sees the curious crowd. He reads the faces of every man and woman that compose the multitude. He is a *Stranger*, but his *eye* rests upon a *woman*, who, with bowed head and weeping eyes, is following her *son* to the grave. Her *Only Son*, stricken down in the prime of young manhood, the Pillar of *Strength* for his mother in her declining years. The strong *Column* of her dependence was *broken*, and her feeble, trembling form was crushed with the weight of a great sorrow.

"The only *Son of* his Mother, and She was a *Widow*." (Luke 7:12.) Christ saw the silent agony of the widowed Mother, and His great loving heart was moved with pity. She was a *stranger*, but a fellow-being in *distress!* Could not He *help* this weeping mother? Was it not possible that the *Hand* that had raised Lazarus from the grave at the command of The Christ would be again extended in a grasp of Al-

mighty Power? A *grasp* that should *raise* that widow's Son to life and Usefulness? Surely if it were possible to comfort that weeping mother, it would be a pleasure to this true, loving, tender-hearted Man of Nazareth. And the Christ steps to the side of the bereaved Mother and tenderly speaks the simple words, "Weep Not." Christ had stood in the home of a Ruler in Israel, the young daughter of the home had passed out from the circle of love. He enters! and says to the weeping parents, "Weep Not! She is not Dead." (Luke 8:52.) So Christ addressed the weeping widowed Mother. "Weep Not!" said the Christ, and as she lifted her tear-wet eyes to look for the last time upon the face and form of her only *Son*, Behold! "He came and touched the bier, and they that bare him stood still, and He said, Young Man! I say unto thee, Arise!" *This* is the grandest opportunity of *Masonic* life to aid the *Widow* and the *Orphan* in *Distress* to help the afflicted in a *practical* way, for while many may condole with suffering ones, as the people of that city grieved with that widow in her trouble, yet, as their words of sympathy could not comfort the childless Mother, so Mere Words are of but little value unless they are accompanied by *practical help*, for it is too often the case in this busy world, that although sickness, suffering, and death are constant and unwelcome visitors in our homes, the condolences of many people are a matter of cus-

tom or formality, and far removed from real help in the time of need. But Jesus Christ of Nazareth added a *practical* value to this sympathy by *supplementing words* with an act of *real* kindness and of *practical* help. "And He said, Young Man! I say unto thee, *Arise!* And He delivered him to his Mother." Christ not only had power, but He also had the *disposition* to help that woman in her distressed condition; and it is *this* noble trait in the *Lion* of Judah that should and does endear Him to every true *Masonic* Soul. As that mighty hand of power "touched the bier," and the resistless current of Electric Life leaped through the pulses of the *dead* form, and thrilled the nerves with *quickened* force, and with an all-conquering *leverage* of superhuman *strength*, the *Dead* Being *Arose!* from the bier in strange alarm. Arose! *Alive!* from the *level* of a *dead* man to the *Upright* and life-abounding condition of a *living* Soul, through the resistless energy and *strength* of the *Lion* of *Judah* by the help of God and force of Human Will, So should the true *Mason*, though sometimes troubled, oftimes weak in faith, even in darkened Soul life, yet he should endeavor, in humble imitation of Our Great *Master*, to *Raise* the fallen, to *Strengthen* the Weak, to *Encourage* the faint-hearted, and to *stand to* and *abide by* the *Widow and Orphan* of a deceased member of our *brotherly* band when the shadow of the death Angel shall darken the threshold of the

Masonic home life, ever remembering that he has but *passed* the *ford* of the river, the *Jordan* of Death, into the *Promised* Land of the *Celestial* Home in the *spiritual* Canaan of the Promised *Rest* when *Labor* shall be finished and the *Workman* called from toiling by the *Grand Master*, whom he served while here on Earth. And as Our Great *Master* was enabled by the help of God to *raise* the hopes of that stricken Mother in her hour of darkness that is the sable pall of sorrow for every true widowed heart, So should All *Masons* endeavor to *copy* Him in all our efforts, to *relieve* the wants of the *suffering* and *distressed*, always remembering that while we are unable to *raise* the dead, to physical and mental life, still we *can* and *ought* to *assist* the *living*, whether they are brethren of the *Craft* or otherwise, But as Christ assisted a *Stranger*, so should we help all worthy ones. Still, as Christ gave Himself for His own people, So should the *Mason* be ever ready to show brotherly kindness to a *brother* of the *Order*, or his *Widow* and *Orphans* in the time of their *need*, and to *Protect them* at all hazards. And as this was one of the grandest acts of Jesus Christ, the Grandest of Grand *Masters*, and Greatest of *Masons*, So the noblest monument of any human life is the *kindness* shown "in Christ's name," to any soul in need of *help* in this weary world. And as the *Gospel* of Christ is The Gospel of *Love*, a Gospel of *Light* and a Gospel of *Salvation*, It is also a Gospel of

generous *Benevolence* to the helpless and needy who are alone in the world; And the words of the *Master!* in regard to *Masonic* and *Christian* Duty, are never to be neglected by the true heart that has been *prepared* to receive the *light* of true *Masonry*, as taught in the *Holy Bible.* "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the *least* of these, my brethren, Ye have done it unto Me." (Matt. 25:40.) This is the particular instruction of the *Grand Master*, Jesus Christ, to every Christian *Mason;* And it is in accordance with our adherence to His instructions that we shall profit by our practice in the *labor* of the *Craft*, and this is the *Masonry* of the *Holy Bible;* this is the *true Masonry* of *Christianity* on Earth; And this is the *Masonry* of The Gospel of Jesus Christ, for, "By their *Fruits* ye shall *know* them."

CHAPTER VII.

THE RESULT OF MASONRY.

There are thousands of religious Beliefs in the present age of the world, and every one of the various tenets of each individual faith in the *Christian* Religion is founded upon the Holy *Bible*. The tall spire of the City Church pierces the upper air, and the deep-toned bell revolves within the tower, and in tones of melodic resonance announces to the citizens of the town the weekly summons to divine service in the house of worship that will be held at a certain hour, and it extends a ringing voice of invitation far and wide to every ear that hears its silver tones to *Come* and Worship the Lord in His Sanctuary. The Organ peals forth the opening Anthem, and the dulcet chords of a glorious harmony converts the quiet of the great Cathedral into a Musical Rainbow of delicate improvisations set in the Cloud land of grand and majestic Basic Chording of Pedal and Open Diapason notes, Rolling in upon the sensitive *Ear*, like the ponderous roar of heavy Thunder, filling the dark ravines and deep valleys, and echoing from the snow-clad peaks of neighboring Mountains, and blending itself in a breathless *Symphony* of beautiful *minor harmonies* like the dreamy vista of an Italian

Sunset or the soft breath of the Magnolia as it floats in fragrant perfumed benediction above the head of a sleeping *Child*. The *heart* of the weary *Toiler* is unconsciously soothed to *rest* by the caressing touch of the magic power of the wondrous *Art of Music*. Oh, Glorious Music, Thou Noble Daughter of Divine Art and Angelic Science, Thou Inspiration of the nobility of Soul, Thou of whom the Royal Harp of David was ever filled with glorious melodies of "Glorious Days." "Enter into His Gates with Thanksgiving, and into His Courts with Praise." Truly David was inspired by Music to write the wonderful *metric* Psalms set to Melody by *Asaph*, the leader, with the triumphant clashing Cymbals *of Judah*, Lion Rampant, Christ Militant Forevermore, and the tired heart without a conscious effort is rested and comforted by the wonderful sweetness of "the *Music* in the air." The lofty pulpit is heavily draped with velvet and gold. Carpets of costly material soften the footfall of the entering worshippers. At last the great house is filled with a congregation of varied human souls. The delicately fluted columns of Corinthian Beauty and Composite ornamentation are tested by the combined weight of the crowded galleries. The beautiful Dome of the Roof is lighted by the reflected radiance of Arc and Incandescent Electricity. The Audience listens to the strains of "Handel's Creation," rendered in superb technique by the trained Choir of beautiful voices,

and as the solemn tones reverberate from Nave to Transept, and the hush of expectancy falls upon the congregation, the Study door opens, and, with slow and reverent step, the Minister advances to the Pulpit and Opens *a Volume* that is also bound in Velvet and Gold. A massive clasp is slowly unfastened, and the *Bible* has been formally opened by the servant of the Church, and the Service proceeds until the Doxologic Benedictory is sung by the congregation; and then the great multitude pass out from the sanctuary and disperse to their various abodes, there to comment upon the views of the Speaker, to criticise him sharply (if he has been an honest man), and amid the singing, the reading, the preaching, and the Benediction, there are few that really Know the *Truth* of the Beautiful *Bible*, which reposes in elegance upon the gold fringed Pulpit Cover. But amid all the magnificent adjuncts of this modern style of Worship there is One Solid Fact, which is this: That there *was* a period in the History of the Churches when the Holy Bible *disappeared* from the view of even the members of all the churches of earth, and that for a time there was not a Copy in the hands of the common people. It was not bound with clasps of Gold, but was wrapped in the blazing fires of persecution, and of the awful martyrdom of Believers in Jesus the Christ. It was not allowed to be read in open view of an audience as Ezra read it

from the Wooden Pulpit in Jerusalem, or as it is read to-day from the embroidered Cushion of the City Rostrum; but it still *was read*, and its sacred contents treasured in the repository of the faithful *breasts* of its sworn *friends*.

And *this* is the *fact* that every *Mason* ought to know, that every *Christian Mason* should be proud of, and that should cause the opposing influences of *Masonry* to hang their heads in mute shame and dishonour. Because, while Martyrs were giving their lives as a proof of their faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Churches had all disappeared (so far as simple organizations upon *Bible facts* were publicly concerned), Yet there *was* an Organization that never allowed *The Holy Bible*, The Great *Light*, to be *closed*, either by Edict of Emperor, or by the puerile fear of Ecclesiastical cowardice; And the name of *that* organization was "*The Masonic Lodge.*" The Midnight meetings, held by *Masons*, have been held up to the world as a detriment to *Masonry*, and because of the Secrecy of the Order, there are people who claim to believe that *Masonry* is opposed to the ways and walks of common life, and that a man who becomes a *Mason* may impair his usefulness, etc. There are those who say, If it were of real *use* it would *not* be kept so *secretly* guarded, etc. I ask of these cavillers at *Masonry* to tell me *where* The Holy Bible *was*, as a perfect Record, as an *Open Book* of God's Law, during

the Dark Middle Ages of this World's *Religious* History, through the years of Midnight Superstition, which were only lighted by the fiery blaze, as it released a Soul in Martyrdom for the Holy Cause of Christ. *Where was the Bible* in the Awful Night of Blood, Rapine, Murder, War, Death, and awful carnage of the dark period of the Civilized World's Historic Life? And the question *cannot* be answered by these people, for the simple reason that they do not know! But a *Mason does know!* and none but a *Mason can know* where the *Holy Bible was preserved.* Beliefs may, and Do, abound, but Belief, although honest, does not create Truth out of error. But if those who object to *Masonry* because of its midnight meetings and frightful secrecy, will examine the *Origin* of the "Midnight Orgie!" They will find that, while Christian Blood was flowing in fearful torrents of human sacrifice, and the Church on earth had simply surrendered and begged for quarter from the merciless foes of Jesus Christ, Ancient Craft *Masonry Preserved The Holy Bible* in its purity and *kept* the *Holy Record* uncontaminated by the touch of sacrilegious hands. As Judas Maccabeus defended the Temple in Jerusalem, so the Holy *Writings* of Moses were protected and triumphantly Defended by true *Masons!* armed with naked *Swords*, Guarding the *Bible*—Not giving up their lives, but actually *keeping* the Bible for future generations. And as Ezra wrote the *Copy* of the *Book of the Law*,

and the people preserved it in the Ark of God, So *Masonry*, with keen sword point, tipped with the blood of the enemies of Christ, has *Cut* the inscription of The Grandest *Truth* in History! upon the scroll of Centuries, which inscription, Carved by *Masonic* Swords upon the Tablet of *Time* and *Fact*, will remain *Indelible* until the close of Time and the *End* of this World. And the Inscription is this: The Tables of Stone, *cut* with the finger of *God*, were given to Moses. *Solomon!* King of Israel, *Hiram!* King of Tyre, and 153,300 *Masons!* Built the *Temple* and preserved the *Law of God* in its *original* state. Ezra, the grandson of Hilkiah the High Priest, Copied the Tables of the Law (which were destroyed with the Temple); And *Royal Arch Masons know* that this *Copy* was never *lost!* Judas Maccabeus fought in defense of The Holy *Book* until the destruction of Judah as a people, and his own glorious *Masonic Death* in the cause of Judah paralyzed the efforts of the multitudes of the people. Still the *Holy Writings* were *kept* and *Guarded* by men who were devoted to that *purpose*, Until The Christ! appeared The *Lion* of Judah, Who emphasized His Authority in every tested instance by saying, "It is *Written*," and "The Scripture cannot be Broken." And when by the marvelous *plan* of the God of Israel, Judah, and the Universe of Worlds, Christ was Crucified upon the Cross, and the little band of trembling disciples fled and gazed upon Him in tear-

ful loneliness, While Saul was persecuting the Churches, While Titus ploughed the Temple Site in the year 70, A. D., and "Not One Stone remained upon another" as Christ had said, Still the ancient *Holy Writings* were sacredly *guarded*, and when as Herod failed to find the Child of the *Eastern Star* by even the awful massacre of the Hebrew Children, So the *Holy Writings* were never *destroyed* either in the persecution and Burning of the Records, the Wars by Domitian or by the polite yet not less guilty policy of Constantine, who, in his exalted position of Emperor of Rome, Unified Church and State, and changed the *Seventh* Day Sabbath of God to the First Day Sunday of Constantine, because of his weak desire to please the mass of his people, and thus to prolong his reign. But still the Holy *Book* of *God's Law* was kept when the Church at Jerusalem and the Gentile Church at Antioch were merged in the Great Roman Church of Constantine. There were determined men who had Banded themselves together as did the Jews with *Nehemiah* to clear away the *Rubbish* and to *Keep the Holy Writings*. These men met at *midnight* on the tops of the highest *Hills*, and at times in the deepest *Valleys*. They were well *protected* on every hand by members of their own band who were *tried* and *true*. They erected *Altars*, and laid upon the altars a Copy of *The Book of The Law of God*, which is now called the Holy Bible! These meetings were held near the *Moon's* perihelion,

and were never allowed to be disturbed, because of the Vigilance of their *guards* while at Worship, and the secret determination which marked their acts and words among their fellow-men. These men were *Christian Masons*, and their successors during the centuries that have since passed have remained true and steadfast to the first *Written Law* of the Most High *God.* The *Book of Constitutions! Guarded by the Naked Sword* is an emblem of the determination to forever resist, even to the death, any and all attempts at deviation from the Original *Law*, in spite of all the so-called Revisions, of Interested partisans in direct opposition to the inspired word of the Grand Master, Jesus Christ, who has firmly declared in the closing words of the *Great Light of Masonry*, the Holy *Bible*, "I, Jesus, have sent mine Angel to testify unto you these things! I am the Root and the offspring of David. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of *This Book!* If any man shall *add unto* these things, *God* shall add unto him the plagues that are *written* in this Book. And if any man shall *take away* from the words of *The Book* of this prophecy, *God* shall *take away* his part out of The Book of Life! and out of The Holy City, and from the things which are written in this *Book.* He which testifieth these things saith, Surely, I Come Quickly. Amen. Even so. Come Lord Jesus. The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ Be With You All.

Amen." Aye! *Masons, Amen! So mote it be.* (Rev. 22:16–21 inclusive.) It is *The Holy Bible* that is the *Mason's Jewel.* And It is the Care Entrusted to the *Masons* of the past, and the *Fact!* which is *indisputable* according to Historic *Verity* is This: That the All-Wise Creator in His own foreknowledge of human events, Gave *Masonry* to Moses in the measurements of Geometric perfection which He commanded in the construction of the Tabernacle, and that Operative *Masonry* was Given to *Solomon* in the plan and God-given instruction which fashioned the *Strength* and *Beauty* of The Temple, through the *Wisdom* which God had given Solomon in answer to his special prayer. And Speculative *Masonry* was Demonstrated by Christ in Word and Act while upon Earth. *Solomon* was quoted by Christ as a great personage, and yet *The Bible* Records these words: "Behold! A greater than *Solomon* is here." Christ fulfilled the *Type* foreshadowed by Solomon as a Builder of Material Things. Christ Built His Kingdom and Called His Disciples by personal Work. The Destruction of the Temple and loss of the Ark and the Law of God, simply typefied the Crucifixion of Christ the Human Destruction of the Great *Master* and Teacher in Israel. The *Restoration* under *Nehemiah* and *Joshua* was a *type* of the Resurrection of the Christ, after seeming ruin and Destruction had removed Him from Earth life among men. And the grand prophecy of

Isaiah of the Coming Kingdom and the Glorious King, "Behold a King shall Reign in Righteousness" (Isaiah 32:1) is a *Type* of the glorious future! for Christ himself hath said that He will Come to Earth again, and that He will separate the wicked from among the just. "And then shall appear the *Sign* of the Son of Man in Heaven." (We must remember that the *Sign* given the Wise Men from the *East!* was the *Blazing Star!*) "And they shall see the Son of Man Coming in the *clouds* of Heaven, with power, and great Glory. And He shall Send His Angels with a great sound of a Trumpet. And they shall gather together His Elect from the four Winds from one end of Heaven to the other." (Matt. 24:30,31.) Christ, the Child of the *Eastern Star*, was born according to prophecy of men who received their information from the God of Israel. He lived and labored and died in perfect accord with the divine plan of God in the salvation of a ruined race, for as the ancient people of God were ruined by their disobedience of His Law, so Man, in all the varied ramifications of the human family, had become involved in the general loss and Destruction of Soul in a spiritual sense. And as the prophet Isaiah had told of a Coming Deliverer in the great Messiah of the *Lion* Tribe of Judah, So Christ, the Lion of Judah, by virtue of His Complete Triumph of the Resurrection, has won the spiritual deliverance of the Soul of Man from the state of dark-

ness of the natural mental powers. And as *The Book* of the Law of God was sacredly *guarded* by the tribe of *Levi*, even during the darkness of *Captivity* in *Babylon*, and the constant attempts on the part of the King to force the Hebrews to worship the Idol God of the Assyrians, So the *Holy Writings* have ever been *protected* during the awful days of the Inquisition, the Horrors of religious fanaticism, the Infidelity of the Age of Reason, in the days of Robespierre and Voltaire, and down to the present so-called Liberal Age! An Age that is so very Liberal! that it seems perfectly willing to part with the *Ancient Record* of Divine Inspiration for the more convenient and less binding "*Revisions*" of The Word, which Revisions are controlled by *Priestcraft*, and are capable of and liable to still further "*Revisions*," from time to time, until at last the *Original!* is entirely lost in the *rubbish* of a false and modern Ideal of God that is as far removed from the *real Truth* as the Heavens are above the Earth.

Again I repeat that among the doubts and speculations concerning the *Bible*, that like as the Ancient Prophets were firm in their knowledge of God and faith in the Coming Messiah, so the *Mason* To-day, if he be a *True* Enlightened *Mason*, Stands firmly for *God and the Holy Bible*, and there is a deep *significance* in every *Masonic* Burial Service, as *the Holy Writings*, borne by the oldest Mason in the Lodge, is placed in

the special and sheltered point of protection, which is guaranteed by the naked *Sword* of the *brother Mason*, who is a faithful *Companion*, for as the Ark of God in ancient days was protected by the *special* Tribe of *Levites*, whose *duty* it was to ever *defend* the sacred *Book of the Law* of the God of Israel, so in the present age the *Holy Bible* is the special care of the special Organization of *Masonry*, and every *Mason* is in duty bound to *defend* its material safety, and to *follow* its divine instructions while *laboring* in the earthly *Temple* of the Human Body upon this sphere of material things. And while the so-called Religions of various Sects may war and dispute in factional debate which can never be satisfactorily settled, and while some will even dare to change the real Word of God for a human interpretation thereof, and forget the plain words of *the Holy Bible* in regard to such a course, "knowing this first that No prophecy of the Scripture is of *any private interpretation*, for the prophecy came not in old time by the Will of God, But Holy Men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." These plain words are found in II. Peter 1:20, 21, and they are simply *unanswerable*, because they are *true*, and it is a *fact* well worthy of recording that *Masonry* never changes; the *Temple* Worker of the 19th Century must *labor* in the *same* way as did his predecessor of 3,000 years ago, and the spiritual instructions and their tremendous impressions upon

the human mind are identical with the principles Given to *Moses* in the Tables of *Stone* that were given to him from the very hand of God. Therefore there is but one conclusion in regard to the Object and final Result of True *Masonry* as it is laid down upon the *Trestleboard* of *the Bible* through the inspiration of the Divine *Architect*, and though the human instruments of the people of Israel and Judah were frail and faulty in their mental and spiritual perceptions, and were to blame for the Destruction of their City and the Temple, still they were but types of humanity at best, and their frailties are still practiced even amid the age of Our Advanced Thought. Higher Criticism, and the common reservation of the right to accept or reject in part or in toto the Literal Word of God as He Read it and Authorized it to forever remain in the keen warning already quoted in the 22d Chap. of Revelation. And there is another fact which we as *Masons* must never forget, and it is that as All the *Types* of the ancient *Tabernacle* and the *Temple* were intended to *represent* the Kingdom of *God* Set up by the Christ, and as when the *Types* were *verified* by the actual *labor* of the *Master Mason* of Heaven and of Earth, and produced a lasting impression upon the minds and hearts of all people who believe the *Truth* as Christ spoke it. So true *Masonry* viewed from a *Bible* Standpoint, which is *the only true* and *unswervable* position of observance of God's *Law*, was given

in its principles to man from the hand and lips of God for a Divine *Purpose*, namely, that the stern lines of *His Holy Law* should be forever promulgated among all men whose hearts were willing to receive the living facts of real Truth, and in accordance with this purpose of God, the Building of the Tabernacle, with its God given figures of measurement, was to teach Moses the Master and the people of Israel who were with him to abide by the actual commands of God, and never to deviate from the smallest iota of the divine directions, and the strict injunction of God to Solomon at the Building of the Temple was to shape the future mental and spiritual condition of the people of Israel in exact proportion as He had designed in the perfect Temple Building to show by actual material results the accuracy of spiritual knowledge, and to demonstrate by the perfect fitting of the separate portions of the Temple structure that a Plan which is controlled by actual Rules is the Only Plan which meets with the approbation of the Creator, and *the Temple* worship in its material beauty was *a type* of Jesus Christ, who was to fulfill all the plans of God in the complete sacrifice of himself on the Cross, and the Record of the Historic Past is plain evidence of the spiritual advancement of the material world through the influence of the Child of the *Eastern Star*, the King of the Hebrew people by prophetic Birthright, and by the divine plan of the All-Wise God, The

Saviour of Man and the Coming Redeemer of the Human Soul; and the practical results of *Masonry* from the *Bible* standpoint are dependent altogether upon the *Men* who are the *Members* of the *Order*.

True Christianity is practical work for the advancement of the cause of Jesus Christ in every way that is consistent with His express instructions in *His Holy Word*, and in a practical application of the Truth of *The Holy Bible* we find that real *Masonry* in the purest sense is the strict obedience to the Divine Will of *God*, and a perfect willingness to be directed by the *Light* of *The Holy Bible* in all worldly affairs with all men, and to ever cherish the eternal *principles* of *Friendship*, *Morality* and *Brotherly Love!* and apply them to every word and act, especially in our *Masonic* Life, while we are permitted to *labor* in the earthly tabernacle, ever remembering that as the Wilderness Tabernacle was the rude type of the beautiful Temple which was yet to crown the "Mountains round about Jerusalem." So Man in the tabernacle of this natural human body is first taught by Masonry to realize his darkened state, and by an earnest study of its grand principles he learns to admire its sublime teachings as they are practically shown by the open tenets and actual work of the true members of the *Masonic Order*, and as he studies the subject and reasons from cause to effect, he becomes aware of an earnest desire to attain a higher plane of thought,

and to fellowship with men who have already commenced to "scale the heights" of human intelligence and Divine Knowledge of the True, the Good and the Beautiful as it is portrayed in the *secret work* and open practice of the *Masonic* Lodge, whose Great *Light* is *The Holy Bible*, and in the full consciousness of *this desire* the *Applicant* for the noble degrees of *Ancient Craft Masonry* is *already prepared in heart* to receive the first rays of *Masonic Light*, with a firm, unfaltering trust in the *God of Masonry*, the *God* of *The Holy Bible*, and the *God of Ancient Israel*, and in *this Triune Deity the Mason* firmly believes, upon the Authority of *The Holy Bible*, which is the Book of the Law, which was a *Copy* of the Two Tables of *Stone* that were given to *Moses* in the Wilderness by the hand of God Himself. And as the *Mason's God* is a perfect Trinity, so the *Mason's* Bible is a *perfect Trinity*, the *Stone*, the *Copy*, the *Holy Bible*, and as the Christian's *God* is also Triune, consisting of the *Father*, the *Son*, and the *Holy Ghost*, and "These Three are one." And as the Christian's *Bible* is *The Holy Bible*, as it is given by inspiration of the Divine Being, the *Masonic* inquirer will readily see that a Christian *Mason* is in possession not only of *Faith* in Jesus Christ, but he is also able to demonstrate the *practical Reason* of the Truth of *The Holy Bible* as it is shown in the pages of History, even of nations who have now passed away from earth forever. And from

the time that the *Great Light of Masonry* lightens the natural Soul of the honest seeker for *Truth*, until the shadow of the Angel of the Valley of Silence hovers over the departing spirit, there is a continual advancement in the progression of enlightened faculties, and a deep and earnest research for the blessing of more *light!* to know the Past, by the facts of History and true Science, to know the Truth of the rise and fall of nations, to know the Truth of all the efforts of humanity to find the True God. And also to know that there is a *way* to learn the *Truth* from the lips of *Divinity.* And that *this Truth* is made plain in the *The Holy Bible*, as the Scripture truly declares, "The *Entrance of Thy Word Giveth Light!*" And as a *key* to the great treasure house of *Truth*, Christ, the *Light* of the World, has said: "*Search the Scriptures*, for they are they which testify of *Me.*" And the searcher of *Masonic* Truth will surely find it in *The Holy Bible*, for "*He that asketh Receiveth!* and *He that seeketh Findeth!* and to *Him that knocketh*, it *shall* be *Opened.*" And thus the *Mason* whose *heart* is properly *prepared*, who is an honest searcher for true *light*, will certainly find his *Masonic* pathway growing *brighter* and *brighter* as he *progresses* in the radiant glow of ever increasing *light*, until he stands at the *end* of the journey of human life and efforts to obtain coveted knowledge, and as he realizes the reality of the Spiritual Life, and also that for many years he

has *trod the level path* of "the Just, which groweth Brighter and Brighter unto the perfect day," and so in Old Age, the true *Mason*, having *traveled Eastward*, amid the winding paths of life, stands by the *Hour Glass* of Individuality, and as the rapidly diminishing *sands of time* are steadily flowing out to return no more forever, It is then that *Masonry* and *The Holy Bible* stand with him upon the brink of the *Jordan* of Death, and with these faithful *companions! The Bible*, which has been "A *lamp* to his feet." and *Masonic* knowledge, which has taught him how to *apply* its beautiful lessons.

With these true and *tried* friends the aged Mason stands by the river and looks across into the mist that seems to hide the Promised Land; he realizes as Moses did that his Masonic life has not been devoid of imperfections, and that there is much to regret in a retrospective view of the Past, still his trust is in God, and he is assured that the admonition to "Study to show thyself approved unto God," has been ever before his mind and heart while *traveling* through the earthly wilderness, amid the hopes and fears of youth with its dreams and follies, and in Manhood's Strength with its pride and ambition, which too often are coupled with hopelessness and grief, and now in the feebleness of Manhood's declining years, with the weight of many years of toil bowing the tall form that was once erect and powerful, and the snowy

crown of Age upon the proud head whose busy brain had never brooked an opposing force, with the cunning science of the hand long since departed, and the once radiant, flashing eyes that, like the Eagle in mid air, challenged for a moment the Sun in its "meridian height," now eagerly but dimly trying to look "beyond the Veil." This is the Result of true Masonry, when its noble principles are correctly understood and conscientiously followed by an earnest, honest soul, and as the Mason, in the hour of approaching dissolution, looks for the last time toward the Eternal East, Behold the Mist arises from the river and becomes a Vision of sparkling beauty in the glory of an eternal Sunrise in the Promised Land of Rest, and the failing sight is brightened by the glorious flood of "Eastern Light" as it rises in full power upon the beautiful elysian fields of Heaven and flashes the keen rays upon the darkened earthly bank of the swift flowing stream that separates the "Glorious Land" from the desert wastes of dreary human existence. And as Joshua, with the sacred Ark of God, Crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan in the light of the protecting power of Jehovah, and beheld the mighty rushing waters, held back by a mightier power than man could ever hope to wield, so the Christian Mason, with the secret love of God and the *Holy Bible* in the faithful keeping of a true heart, and with the honest desire to please the great Master in life or in death,

steps fearlessly into the turbulent waters as did the Ancient Masonic Priests of the Ark of the Covenant, and like them also passes over the dark waters and up the Eastern slope, still facing the wonderful Blazing Light that shines before his new-found spiritual Vision, He has now left the material things of earth life far behind, and like Paul, "Forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before," The liberated soul of the Christian Mason still presses toward the beauteous Light that floods the beauty of the heavenly scene with a celestial sweetness, while upon the spiritual senses there steals a musical Vision as the glorious band of angelic singers swept down from the City of God to herald the Advent of the Child of Heaven upon the earth, and chained the rapt attention of the wondering Shepherds of the Judean plain, and blended their perfect voices in a Hallelujah Chorus of "Glory to God in the Highest; On Earth, Peace, Good Will toward Men." So they sing in the clear air of that spiritual country, and as they chant the praises of "Him who sitteth upon the Throne," and forming in "grand procession," begin the triumphal march toward the grand Eternal City of God, the company increases, and "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand and Thousands of Thousands" Raise the Notes of "the New Song." The Spirit of the Christian Mason is attracted to the same glorious beings in

White that interested John the beloved of Christ, "John the Evangelist." Who are these in White Robes? and Whence Came They?" And an Angel of glorious presence answers the question: "These are they which came out of great tribulation." Ah, yes, David, with every trace of sinfulness forever washed away; Solomon in resplendent Glory as never known on Earth; King Josiah, with happy face, is looking on the scene; Nehemiah and Joshua are here with Zerubbabel; Judas Maccabeus the Hammerer is smiling at a child. Still onward sweeps the great concourse toward the Eternal City. The "Eastern Gate" of Pearl is Opened by an Angel of the Lord. Onward through the streets of Gold. Onward by the beautiful River of Life, whose banks are lined with beautiful flowers, amid which are playing the "little Ones that left Masonic Homes" of earth life for the "Father's House in Heaven," and like the children of the earth when theChrist entered Jerusalem amid their innocent shouts of joy and gifts of flowers, so these children, Mason's children, lead the great army of Masonic Toilers into the beautiful Temple of the Living God; a Powerful Spirit is the Tyler of the Western Gate; a child gives the Masonic Sign of Fellowship with the Heavenly Temple of Masonry, and again the Word of the Christ is emphasized: "Except ye be Converted and become as little children, ye cannot see the Kingdom of God." And as the Child gives the

Sign of the Cross, and utters the Password of "The Grand Lodge of Heaven," the mighty form of John the Baptist leads the way to the inner Court. The Children's Voices fill the Temple with ringing notes of Joy and Happiness. Thousands of Angels strike their Harps of Gold as David leads the Musicians of the Ancient Temple into the sacred interior. Thousand of Angel Guards escort "The Hammerer" of Judah, while the happy children, led by Miriam, sing the great Hallel of Heaven: "Jehovah hath triumphed, His people are free." And with Joy they gather at the Altar. The Roll of Heaven is called by the Archangel of the inner Sanctuary, a Veil is raised, and to the wondering vision of the Masonic Spirits there appears *a Book*, "The Book of the Law of the God of Israel," "The Holy Bible," "The Great Light of Masonry," and while the Great Light scintillates in splendid radiance and dazzles the glorified vision of all, Behold another Veil is lifted by an Angel hand, and the wonderful light becomes still more glorious in the appearance of the Eastern Star. Again the Wise Men of the distant past, Bow their Kingly Spirit forms as they did at the manger in Bethlehem, and as they prostrate themselves beneath its rays, the Great Congregation of Masonic Spirits bow before the Eastern Star of the Christ of God, and while in humble Adoration of the Deity of Heaven, Masonic Spirits are offering praises to the

Christ. Again, behold the Third Veil is drawn aside by the same invisible Angel, and amid the dazzling splendor of the Eastern Light appears a Form "Like unto the Son of God." The Worshipful Master Arises in the East. The Senior and Junior Wardens are in their appointed stations. The gentle eyes of the Master rest in kindness upon every face. John the Baptist Grand Senior Warden, John the Evangelist Grand Junior Warden. "Who are These, and Whence Came They." And at the question, again the Children's Voices thrill the quiet air: "I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat: Naked and ye clothed me," and as they chant the words they swiftly pass around the mighty throng and stand, still singing their song of gratitude and love; hand in hand a loving band of innocence and joy encircle in their loving arms the Masonic Friends of earth life, while the Glorious, Grand Worshipful Master in the East Speaks in a low, sweet voice that sooths the weary spirit as the cradle song of a loving mother lulls her child to slumber.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of one of these, my Brethren! ye have done it unto Me!" And as the Worshipful Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Heaven looks with loving kindness upon those who have tried as Christian Masons, to faithfully serve Him in the dim shadows of Earthly life, and He gazes into the honest eyes of His tried servants in Masonry and the Cause of the Christ, is it too much

to imagine that the eyes which have dimmed through sorrow shall reflect the glorious life of the eyes of The Master; that the ear, which listened patiently to a brother's Woes, will be greeted with a personal welcome from the lips of Our Rabboni! Our Master and Teacher from God? "Well Done! Thou good and faithful servant; Enter Thou! into the joy of thy Lord." And as the feeble hand of Earthly Masonry is extended toward The Master! is it beyond belief that a Grip will be given by the Grand Master, to every Spiritual Mason, together with the True and Accepted Word of True Christian Masonry "Christ! and Him Crucified." And with the spirit released from all that is connected with Earth and its environments divested of Sin, and Prepared for "An Abundant Entrance into the Kingdom," The True Christian Mason shall "Sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, and shall stand with Moses, Joshua, Solomon, David, Hiram, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel, Judas Maccabeus, together with all the Masonic Worshippers of God of all ages, countries and tongues, ascribing praise to the Grand Master of the Universe of Created Worlds! And led by the Chorus of Angels and the Children, the New Song will be sung by Heaven's Choir, While We stand upon the Temple floor as spiritual companions forevermore, and receive the Gift of The White Stone. "And in the stone

a new name written which no man knoweth save he that receiveth it." And as the full meaning of The White Stone is then revealed to us beneath the Royal Arch of the Love of Christ, lighted with Glory in the full gleaming of Christ's Eastern Star of Beauty, The spiritual Mason will again realize the Truth of The Great Light in these recorded words: "This is the Stone rejected of the Builders, the same is become the Head of the Corner." The Beauty of the Branch, The Strength of the Lion, The Love of God for Man, The Design of the Temple, The full and complete Result of Masonry will be revealed to us in the clear understanding of a spiritual discernment. "Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now I know in part. Then shall I know even as also I am known." This will certainly be the practical result of Christian Masonry in the future spiritual world toward which we are swiftly speeding hourly, and the practical application of the principles of Truth in all things, will certainly prepare the Spirit for the trials of life. Educate and Train the intellectual faculties of Reason and Speculation, stimulate the latent energies, which may be in a dormant or lethargic condition, and thus fit us as "lively stones," well fitted to adorn the Temple of God not made with hands eternal in the heavens. And when we reach that home Where all Christian Masons hope to arrive when the time of Labor shall be finished upon earth,

it is and will be the prayer of the Writer that *every* Christian Mason, with his loved ones of earth, may be enabled to stand before the Great Master in The Temple Above, and realize the full light and glorious immortality of "The Masonry of The Bible."

"All Hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let Angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the Royal Diadem,
And Crown Him Lord of all."

And to the sentiment and truthfulness of the words of this song of praise, Let every Christian Mason, from the innermost recesses of an honest heart, and the conscious determination to ever "Look toward The East," with firm Trust in God and Love for Jesus Christ, respond in tones of reverential tenderness.

"Amen! So Mote it Be."

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